

COMFORT

FOR ALL



A HAPPY THANKSGIVING FOR EVERYBODY

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DEVOTED TO ART, LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND THE HOME CIRCLE

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"I TELL YOU TO SEND THAT MESSAGE!"

MILVILLE'S THANKSGIVING.

BY ALICE TURNER.

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IT WAS the week before Thanksgiving, but to even a stranger there would have seemed to be something the matter in Millville. There were knots of villagers and workmen on the streets, and for the first time since it was built, fifteen years ago, the humming machinery of the great screw factory, stretching along the Connecticut River, was silent, and from the huge chimney rose no smoke. The workmen at Marston's were on a strike!

It was a hard position for the Company's manager, John Scoville. He liked the men, yet he realized that the company had been running the mills without profit for months, and that owing to overproduction it was impossible to grant the advance in wages asked for by the employees. John Scoville was an athletic, clear-headed man, with a face that indicated a nature equal to contest. Millville was his home. The river had been his fishing ground as a boy. The faces of many of the men were familiar to him from boyhood. He had worked his way up among them and they valued him; yet his influence had not been sufficient to prevent the trouble that now confronted the inhabitants of the little village.

John Scoville felt that it was unduly hard on him. He had worked all his life for the place

he now held ward to the would Jennie

and he had looked for-time when his position justify him in asking Hyde to be his wife.

She was the telegraph operator at Millville; they had been playmates in childhood and, for several years, lovers. The stoppage of the mills meant that their marriage must be postponed. Therefore John hoped against hope that the strike might in some way be averted. The men had asked for better terms and the Company's final answer had not yet been received.

Some of the hot-blooded strikers had threatened to burn the mills, but the wiser men had so far held them in check. Scoville had reported matters very fully to the Company, also that there was some danger of violence, both to the works and to himself and the little knot of trusty men who still remained with him. He had been promised

proper protection for the works and a prompt answer to the demands of the men; but the answer had not yet come. He had been notified to report at once any movement

"There wouldn't be danger for her than for people," Jennie answered sharply.

Scoville looked at her in surprise. He did not know that Jennie had always been jealous of his admiration for Miss Davis and that now his evident anxiety for the latter's safety angered her. Just as he was about to ask her for a word of explanation they heard someone running down the platform.

Scoville sprang to the door. It was the man he had been expecting.

"They're going to fight," said the man. "The ugly ones mean business. You must get help at once."

John rapidly wrote a dispatch at the counter. "Hurry this, Jennie," he said, shoving it in. Then turning to the man, "I'll wait here for an answer to this. Go back and tell the men inside to stand by the mill, and I'll be with you again in a few minutes."

The man hurried off while John turned again to the counter. To his surprise the dispatch still lay where he had left it. "Haven't you sent this?" he asked.

"No," she answered.

"For heaven's sake hurry; everything depends on it. Send it at once," he cried angrily.

"I won't," she answered.

Scoville looked at her in astonishment. He could not realize that she was in earnest. "Jennie, this is no time for joking. That dispatch must go," he spoke slowly.

There was no sign of yielding about the girl as she stood there sullen and defiant; and John Scoville realized that she did not mean to send the message.

"I beg of you to send that dispatch, Jennie. The lives of men you have known all your life depend on that message. What reason have you for refusing? Think what an attack on the mills means! It may mean my life too! I tell you to send that message," he finished, angrily.

"Ask Lillian Davis to send it, since it is for her sake you want to prevent trouble," she answered.

Before he could make any reply, a man threw open the door. "Jim said I'd find you here," he said, excitedly. "There's surely going to be a fight, sir. The strikers are a hundred to ten, and they're coming for the mill. They swear they'll not leave a stone of it standing."

"I shall hold those works," said Scoville with determination, "against any odds."

"It'll be ten to one," answered the man. "Look, there's the fust of 'em," and going to the door Scoville saw several little groups of men sauntering down the street. He also noticed that some carried guns.

"Come on," said Scoville, and without a word to the girl behind the counter, the two men stole quietly down a side street in the direction of the mill.

Jennie had heard the conversation and the possible results of her silly anger now occurred to her. She had forgotten her jealousy; she remembered only that she had failed in her duty,



"THERE'S GOING TO BE A FIGHT!"

that she had violated the trust placed in her—that the man she loved was in great danger—danger that her folly had made more imminent.

"John," she cried after him, but he was far out of hearing. Was it too late to call for assistance? She hurried to her instrument, but it was dumb! She tried repeatedly to send Scoville's message, but soon realized that the wires must have been cut.

When she discovered this, Jennie Hyde for the moment forgot her own fear and unhappiness, and gave her mind to the problem before her. She realized that she had but little time, but she was determined to bring help to Scoville, whose peril she had so increased. It must be done! she said to herself, but how? There was but one way; one chance.

"The cut cannot be far off," she thought, and loosening the instrument from the table on which it stood, she took it under her arm and hurried out of the station. She ran rapidly up the railroad track. All her senses seemed sharpened by the situation and its perils. Down the road she saw the men, still sauntering along towards the works. She realized that it meant the worst.

The beautiful Connecticut valley was not a fitting scene for violent deeds. The range of hills crowned with evergreens, the broad blue river winding its peaceful way through the little town of prosperous homes, seemed the very opposite to scenes of terror or warfare.

Keeping her eye on the telegraph wire Jennie hurried on. The track ran along the side of the hills, well above the river. Down below, at the river's brink she could see the factory, and men closing the heavy shutters, as if preparing for a desperate struggle. Still she hurried on, until the track turned and went across the river upon the high railroad bridge. Not intended for foot passengers, it was of open trestle-work without a sign of railing and



JENNIE HYDE WAS ATTENTIVELY LISTENED TO.

against the works.

The great factory door was closed and locked after him, as he came out and walked up the street. He had asked the men to be patient, but he did not think it wise to speak with them further in regard to the situation, and the men now thought he was against them.

The village street presented an unusual appearance of quiet. As Scoville walked along toward the railway station he met a Miss Davis, a young lady who had been visiting in the town and toward whom Scoville had been attracted by her bright manner and pretty face. He now spoke with her and telling her of the strike, advised her to remain within doors.

In the station, behind the counter which made her office, he found Jennie Hyde. She already knew of the strike, and John asked her to call the operator in the city as he might want to send a message to the Company's office. "My assistant will be up here in a few minutes to notify me how things are," he said, as Jennie told him that the line was all right. "What a pretty girl that Miss Davis is," he continued. "I am glad, though, I cautioned her to go home."



BELOW SHE COULD HEAR THE RUSHING WATER.



SHE READ THE MESSAGE FROM THE TELEGRAPH INSTRUMENT.

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JENNIE'S REAL THANKSGIVING.

floored only by the railroad ties. To cross it she must step from tie to tie across the gaps that yawned between. Never before had she thought it possible that she could cross that bridge, but now she must. She did not falter. Far below she could hear the rushing water, but not looking down, she went bravely on until the opposite side was reached, and within a few rods of the bridge, hanging from a pole she found the broken end of the telegraph wire. She was trembling with fear and excitement, as she caught the wire and skillfully made the connections. With the instrument on her lap and the ground wire buried by her side she began to call the city operator. The instrument worked. Her trained ear told her the connections were unbroken. Pulling the blank from her pocket, she sent John's dispatch as rapidly as possible. Then she waited for the reply. She dared not leave the instrument, yet she longed to know how things were in the village. At last she left her post and hurried down the track. Looking down to the opposite bank of the river she could see the factory and the gathering workmen in the mill-yard, but they seemed to be orderly so far, and there was no disturbance. Then she ran to her instrument and waited. The suspense was maddening. Half a dozen times the impulse to get back to the village almost conquered her, but she overcame her fears and waited on.

Finally the message came. "If John only knew," she thought, as she read it from the clicking instrument, and writing down the answer rapidly upon the back of John's message, she began her return journey.

She was tired and frightened, but she made quick time over the dangerous bridge and down the long line of track. Suddenly she heard the report of a gun, and looking down, she could see the strikers hastily gathering in front of the mills. Shouts and yells rent the air. She scrambled down the railroad embankment and was soon in the midst of the uproar.

"Let me pass, please," she called. "I have a message."

Instinctively the man gave way and made a passage through the mob for her.

and these mills will drop to pieces. Your homes will go with the mill. You will have to leave them and take your chances among strangers. Stand by the mill now, and when better times come you will share in them."

Jennie's voice faltered, the men cheered her, and began to saunter out of the yard. One of the leaders announced that the United Order of Strikers would meet at the hall that afternoon at three, and in a little while the streets took on their usual appearance.

John Scoville read the message Jennie handed him; it ran: "Millville may sink, we can't pay what the men ask. If they ruin the mill they will ruin themselves with it."

"I thought it wouldn't do to give them that message," faltered Jennie. "You see the wire was cut, John, and I had to cross the High Bridge before I could send your message."

"Over High Bridge," repeated Scoville, in astonishment. "Well, Jennie, I guess you've saved the mills after all, though I thought you had ruined them and me with them."

The morning before Thanksgiving the whistle of Marston's Mills was again heard, and the men returned to their work.

"The company means all right, after all," one of the men was heard to say. "They sort of explained everything to us by telegraph, and so we're goin' to see 'em through."

It was a time of real Thanksgiving in the little town. The strike was already a thing of the past, and as the happy families gathered about their well-spread tables on Thanksgiving Day the chief topic of conversation was the wedding that was to take place that night, when Jennie Hyde would become Mrs. Scoville.

A Little Gold Mine in Every Home.

One dark, stormy November night, nearly a dozen years ago, two vessels collided off the coast of Maine. One was from Bath, bound for Philadelphia, laden with iron ore, and the other, from Philadelphia, bound for Bath also with a cargo of iron ore. Both sank. Two men only, of the crews, escaped drowning. Life is full of just such fatal illustrations of "Carrying coals to Newcastle." In New England there are hundreds of abandoned farms, deserted not because, (particularly in these days of improved machinery and modern methods) no one could make a living from them, but on account of that strange roving propensity which moves men to seek success in far-off fields, neglecting or ignoring the opportunities which surround them at home. Prosperity is not alone to be found at a distance; it is more frequently near at hand. Opportunities are within reach of every one who will make an effort in the right direction.

A case in point is that of a West Virginia woman who wished to add to her income. She received a hint from reading an advertisement as to how she could establish a profitable business without giving up her household duties. Being a woman of ambition she promptly set to work, and in a few months had established a little home business that, without the slightest risk, was paying her a handsome profit. But the best is yet to come.

On Thanksgiving Day, just as the family were sitting down to the bountiful dinner prepared for them, a knock at the door was heard and an expressman brought in a large box. The family, full of curiosity, deserted the table to see this box opened. Mrs. Boggess, the lady in question, waited until the covers were removed and a handsome Singer Sewing Machine was shown, and then said: "This is my Oxien premium. You see I have not only made a good sum of money through acting

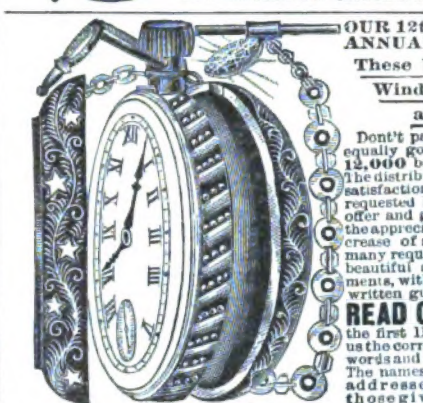
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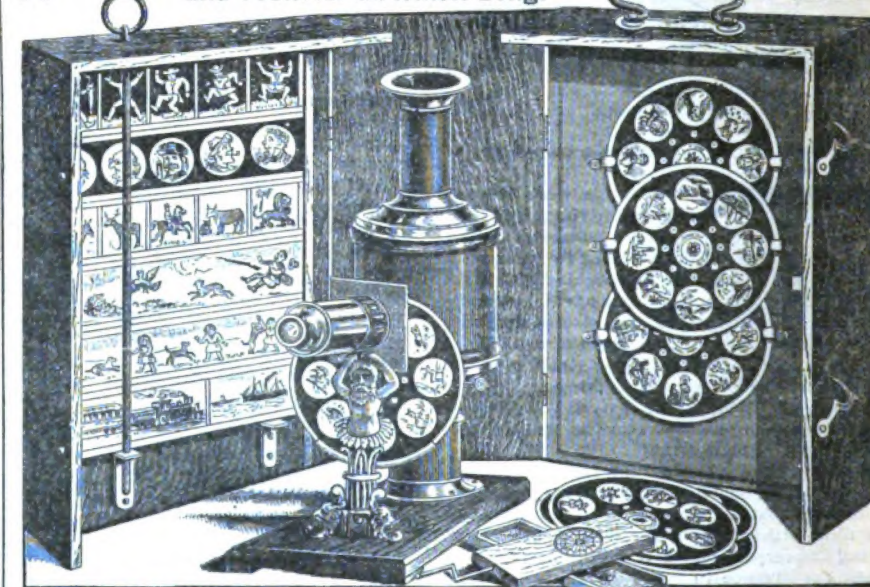
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PUBLISHERS OF COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

"It's Jennie Hyde," some one said. Her brother was one of the strikers, and a faint cheer rose from the crowd.

She hurried through them, and ran up the steps to the big platform in front of the main doors. John had opened the door for her, but she did not enter. She turned and faced the men.

"I have a message," she said, holding the yellow paper toward the crowd, "and before reading it, I want you to listen to me." The girl's voice was clear and full as she went on, "You know me, all of you, and I think you know that the girl who was born among you, went to school with some of you, is to be trusted." The men listened attentively. "The message," called one, but she kept on. "You work hard and have earned your homes here. They are yours. Most of you have paid for them out of your earnings in this very mill. You have your meeting hall, your churches and your club house. Your children have good schools. And you have earned all this yourselves by hard labor in this very mill. Now you have asked for more pay. You want to earn more—but wait. How if you are deprived of the chance to earn anything? Think of it, men. Don't undo what you have worked to win all your lives. Some of you employ servants; you pay them all you can afford. Perhaps some of them think it's not enough and leave you. That's all right. But what if that servant takes a gun and stations herself before your house saying she will shoot your wife if she hires another, and that if she does her own work she will burn the house? How would that suit you? It's just what you are doing here. Now you have listened to me and I thank you with all my heart. Millville is my home. I love it. Its your home too. Before the factory came the land about here was worth hardly anything. Few people lived here. The place was dead. Look at it now! How prosperous. We can keep it so, and I know you will. My message is this; your employers can't pay more at present. It would simply mean closing the works. If you can work at the present rate, all right, they want you to. If you can't they are ruined,

as agent for the Giant Oxie Company of Augusta, Maine, but I have also secured this splendid machine as a premium."

So enthusiastic was her appreciation of her new property, that the Thanksgiving dinner was delayed while Mrs. Boggess, who lives at Fairmont, W. Va., seated herself at the machine and listened to its tuneful humming.

When the happy family finally gathered about the festive board, they all felt they had a new cause for thanksgiving in the possession of such a valuable addition to their home.

THE REASON WHY.

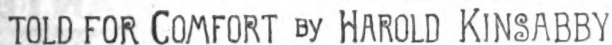
Few people know what the commonest names and expressions were derived from. For instance, though almost all of us have ridden over macadamized roads, how many remember that this system of laying roadbeds was named after the Scotchman, MacAdam, who first recommended it. Or that the popular thermometer, fahrenheit, is the name of a famous German scientist who invented it, or that the word derrick, a contrivance for hoisting weights, was also the name of a celebrated hangman of Tyburn prison, England, who invented it for hoisting men instead of merchandise.

The term lynch law, as applied to illegal and summary executions, was given to it by a certain Mr. Lynch whose prompt and effectual method of suppressing disorder and ridding the neighborhood of disreputables, though perhaps justified by the unsettled state of society in the early days of the country, should now be abandoned to the orderly course of justice and law.

Gerrymandering was first put in practice by Elbridge Gerry of Connecticut, who ingeniously manipulated and changed the boundary lines of certain voting districts as to combine them most effectively for the advantage of one political party.

"Bedlam let loose" is a favorite expression for conveying the idea of great excitement and uproar. The name "Bedlam" is derived from Bethlehem, changed in conversation first to Bethlehem and finally Bedlam. This was the name of a hospital and insane asylum located in London over three hundred years ago.

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SUNSHINE AND SYMPATHY FOR THE SHUT-INS.

"That you may patiently strive to stand and wait, Through all the glories of the fading years; Wait till His hand shall lead you through the gate, And change your sighs to songs, your smiles to tears." I still have some good reading which I will send for postage. Will write to any Shut-In desiring it. Would like to correspond with Christian cousins.

SADIE R. JOHNSON, Seaboard, Md.

MY DEAR FRIENDS: As I sit down to talk to and with you to-day, the same feeling comes to me which I have so often, of being so powerless to really do anything for you. If I could step in and make each one a short call, if I could have a little chat together, to pass away the long hours, or I could perhaps read to you a while, or tell you some incident of the outside world, this would seem to do you some good, in a way. But I am far away from all of you, and can only reach you through the medium of the periodical and the post, two blessings, however, which are not to be despised. Some day, in some of God's worlds, I think that we, too, shall have a Reunion, why not?

Now shall we have a little reading together before we begin to talk?
"Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet."—(Rousseau.)
"By their patience and perseverance God's children are truly known from hypocrites and dissemblers."—(St. Augustine.)
"In the eyes of God Pain may have purpose and be justified."

Put pain from out the world, what room were left For thanks to God, for love to man?
Thanks to God and love to man—from man take these away,
And what is man worth?"—(Browning.)
"It's good to live only a moment at a time. It isn't for you and me to lay plans; we're nothing to do but obey and to trust."—(George Eliot.)

"Dear friends, I want to thank you so much for your kind letters, reading, etc. I am feeling better now, and think I may soon be able to sit up. I lay it all to the kind, sympathizing letters that I got; they seemed to revive me, and draw my mind away from studying on my disease. I have been confined to my bed ever since March, 1889. I do appreciate the COMFORT, and think it is a godsend to the Shut-Ins. If any one could send me some quilt pieces, I would be very grateful."

JOSEPH B. OSBORNE, Jarrett, W. Va.

"I can say from the bottom of my heart, that this paper is in every sense of the word, a COMFORT. I live in beautiful Webster City, Iowa, which has a population of about 4,000. I hardly count myself a Shut-In, except in the winter, when there are times that I am unable to get out. The Lord saw fit to afflict me when I was a tiny babe, so I have never known the joy of walking like other people. I have an invalid chair in which I can go all over the city. I work in a printing office, and find the work very pleasant. Although my health is very good, I sometimes feel that my life is a blank; but then the good Lord sends some one in my way, or causes me to hear of some one (as quite often I do in the COMFORT) so much worse off than myself, that I feel heartily ashamed of my hard thoughts, and thank God that I am no worse. Dear friends, there is always some one who has a harder time than yourself. Think of this, pray for them."

IVY GREEN.

We who are in possession of all our powers ought to be ashamed to be found complaining, when one whom the Father has seen fit to deprive of a great blessing, can give us such a lesson in patient endurance.
"Dear Shut-In friends, I thought Auntie was crowded for room in her Sunshine Corner, or I should have made you a visit ere this. Some of the cousins want brighter letters in the column. Yes, let us look for the bright things of life, but let us be sure that the brightness reflects on the faces of those about us, and not consult wholly our own wishes. I think it will help you, dear suffering ones, if you try to take an interest in others, and outside affairs, of which COMFORT is the window. You are tired of the scenery of the sick-room, so let your imagination wander with me, and we will take a trip through Sunny Kansas. The soil is sandy, and there is not much mud, so it does not take us long to reach the western part. The scene is one vast rolling prairie, with now and then a bare knoll of sand shining brightly in the sunlight. All along our way we scarce numerous jack-rabbits out of the tall grass, and if we watch closely, a prairie wolf skulking ahead of us. On the gravelly land, little towns of prairie dogs and owls dot the earth; if we pass near, the dogs will stand upon their tiny hind feet and boldly assert their prior possession. There are some very nice farm-houses, but you may see close by a dilapidated adobe house, where they used to live in the early days. Every three miles we pass a district school, for Kansas has a fine educational system, one of the best in the U. S. Some of my 'Bosting' cousins will smile at that, but Kansas is working to give an equal chance in having a good common education. Now I expect you are all tired, so I will leave you, and some day we will go again."

MAY QUEEN.

"I am not a Shut-In, but I want to tell all the dear suffering ones how much I sympathize with them in their trials, and how I wish I could send a ray of light into some sad cheerless life. But how comforting it is to remember, when we are pressed down with cares, trials, and suffering, that our Heavenly Father is still watching over us, even as He knoweth the raven's cry and the sparrow's fall, and how precious that promise, 'God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able.' Dear friends, think of the joy and happiness, the everlasting bliss that await us in that beautiful city 'whose builder and maker is God.' Do not think that I have no trials of my own because I am blessed with health; I have suffered long and bitterly, and know how to sympathize.
"For every grief a joy will come,
For every toil a rest;
So hope, so love, so patient, bear,
God doeth all things best."

HYACINTH.

Surely, dear friends, you cannot feel that the other cousins take no interest in you, when such kind letters are written for our corner. I think I will make room for one more this month, before passing to those who really claim this corner to be theirs.
"I am glad to greet you all again, in this harvest season. As I look out over the fields of golden grain, and see the busy reapers garnering the ripened harvest, I think of the many thousands reapers whom the Lord has sent forth into His harvest to gather precious sheaves for His kingdom. My heart goes out in earnest prayer for these active and earnest workers. Yet my prayers and sympathies no less go out to you, dear ones, whom the loving Father has commanded to 'patient stand and wait.' Let not your hearts be discouraged, and think not within yourselves that you are living in vain. Your Father has a mission for you also, and you are fulfilling that mission by patiently waiting. But it is sweet to think that the weakest of you, while waiting, can pray; and what a wonderful power there is in prayer. Think of it! It moves the arm of Omnipotence. There are thousands of the waiting ones doing a blessed work for the Master to-day; and though they may never be permitted to toil in 'Fields that are whitening'neath the ripening grain, and come forth bearing golden sheaves, yet in 'those sweet fields beyond the swelling flood,' by the side of still waters, they will some day 'walk and talk forever,' with golden crowns upon their heads. So I pray, my friends."

"The appeal in July COMFORT for money to purchase an invalid lifter has met with a generous response. To all except anonymous contributions a personal acknowledgment has been sent. There is need of about twenty dollars more. The case is a very deserving one. The lady was formerly a teacher, but for twenty years has been a helpless invalid, obliged to be lifted from bed to chair. The possession of a lifter would greatly relieve the devoted sister who cares for her, and allow the invalid great comfort by allowing more frequent change of position. To all who may wish to contribute any sum, however small, the opportunity for doing a good deed in His Name is afforded. I would be pleased if the contributor who signed his not a miserable sinner, would send me his or her address."

W. E. ANTHONY, M.D., 64 John St., Providence, R. I.

"If Auntie has space, I would like to tell of our King's Daughters picnic at the Spencer Public Park, to which all of our Shut-In friends were invited, and many were present. It cheered our hearts to see the happy faces of those who for years had suffered pain, and had few chances of pleasure such as this day afforded. Carriages were provided to carry the guests to and from the Park. Easy chairs to rest in, and the steamer chartered for two hours on the lake, for all who wished to go. The voice of praise and prayer was heard in our midst, and many kind words spoken in His Name. It was a day long to be remembered; in bringing happiness to others we were blessed; I wish you had all been there, but we know there will be a meeting where pain and parting come not, and we can enjoy eternal happiness."

A KING'S DAUGHTER.

What a beautiful thing for the Daughters of the King to do! Surely one day you will bear the Master's voice saying, 'Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye did it unto Me.'

"I have been a subscriber to COMFORT over a year. I received a sample copy, and therein saw Orlan advertised. I sent and got a dollar box. At that time I was a great sufferer from rheumatism, and had been for years; there were knots raised on my arms, and I could not dress myself. When I began to take Orlan, my weight was only 116, and now I weigh 180, and although I have reached the age of 62, I am enjoying good health, and never was nearly as strong in my young days as I am now. I have such refreshing sleep now, and I am sure that this Nerve Food has helped me mentally also. Dear cousins, I believe that we can serve God in no better way than to alleviate the suffering of our fellow-creatures. I have told you how old I am, and I want you to know that 52 years of my life I have been trying to serve the Lord. Let us not weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

Mrs. S. I. WETZEL, Vandalia, W. Va.

I want to remind the cousins who are not Shut-Ins, not to forget our invalid friends at Christmas, but remember them generously with gifts and letters. Search the columns of the paper for months back and let no one be passed by. In this way you will be observing our Saviour's birthday as He would have it observed.

COMFORT BIRTHDAY LIST FOR SHUT-INS.

Larissa Robbins, Hale City, Texas, Dec. 31.

Will those of the Shut-Ins who wish to do fancy work, crocheting or knitting to sell, send their names to me with the necessary references, and I will keep a list of such names, to which I will refer those who wish to get such work done. The Editor's rules do not allow me to publish the names, as so many have asked me to do. I hope that I may be able to help some needy one in this way.

OUR OPPORTUNITIES TO DO GOOD.

Names of those needing help:
Mrs. L. S. Mackey, Manning, Ohio.
Joseph E. McKee, Monk, Ga., (letters also.)
Letters and reading:
Sarah Johns, Manitowoc, Wisc.

Affectionately, AUNT MINERVA.

CATARH CURED.

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FROM FACTORY DIRECT

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HOW TO MAKE MONEY WITH THE CAMERA.

BY W. I. LINCOLN ADAMS.

Editor of The Photographic Times.

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picture in the artistic sense, and the fundamental rules of drawing must also apply.

This is the very secret of success in photography. Anyone can make a good technical photograph, with a little practice; but not every one can make a picture at the same time. The most successful photographers are not those who can make the best technical photographs, as a rule; but those who have cultivated the artistic feeling within them, and produce, as a consequence, the most picturesque results. This is true whether the chosen branch be portraiture or simple landscape.

The photograph may even be inferior as a scientific product of the chemist and optician; yet, if it possesses the charm of artistic feeling, it is sure to please. It should, therefore, be the aim of all who take up photography as a breadwinner, to cultivate the artistic sense which is inherent in all.

But the very first thing to do, of course, is to procure a camera. There is a great variety to select from. A good one will cost at least \$5.00, though they may be purchased for as little as 25 cents. I have seen excellent results from an outfit costing only \$1.00. Expensive equipments sometimes cost over \$100, and I know of one enthusiastic amateur who invested \$2,000 in his photographic outfit. But he bought many expensive lenses. He had a "Battery," as it is called, consisting of lenses of all focal lengths, so that pictures of various dimensions could be made with the same camera.

The beginner does not need any such outfit as that. A dollar camera, like the one given as a premium for a club of eight subscribers to COMFORT, is good enough to begin with. Then, as the photographer progresses he can purchase a larger and better outfit.

On obtaining your camera read carefully the book of instructions which always accompanies it. Then set up your instrument and make a trial picture. It will not be long before you can make as good a technical photograph as anyone. Your failures will help you even more than your successes. Profit by them and learn "How not to do it." Then cultivate the artistic side in the endeavor to be as successful a breadwinner as Sarony has been, and is.

The best teacher of art I know is Nature. Go into the fields and woods with your camera and photograph what you see, trying always to select the most pleasing views. Very soon you will see them instinctively, and can pick out the prettiest pictures in nature without giving thought to art laws or rules. Photography is a great educator; it is a wonderful eye-opener, and refiner. You will discover by its aid beauties at your back door which you never dreamed of before, and will enjoy all beautiful things more because you understand a little more about them.

It is not necessary to travel in order to find beautiful views for your camera. They are everywhere; in every town and village, and most of all, in the remote country places. Do not think it necessary to have a broad expanse of country; an imposing natural phenomenon, like a cataract; a mountain or other wonderful or unusual object in nature, in order to make a beautiful subject for your camera. More often the simplest things will be prettiest in the finished photographs: an old fence corner overgrown with weeds, a shady nook by some quiet country stream, a barnyard scene, or an old-fashioned farm-house, are just the subjects for the most pleasing photographs.

If you prefer portraiture, or have an opportunity to make the most money by that branch of photography, begin here also with nature—human nature, photograph, first, groups, the family circle, out-of-doors, on the shaded porch, or at one side of the house; for groups and portraits out-of-doors are easiest to make for a beginner.

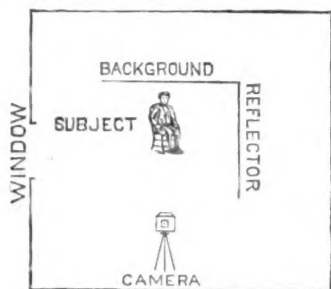
Then, by easy stages, proceed to make single portraits, carefully lighting them and posing, using an improvised studio in your own house or barn. It is not necessary to have a regular photographic studio, with top and side light, painted backgrounds, papier maché accessories and an expensive portrait lens and camera in order to make good portraits. An ordinary side light will answer very well, and a background and reflecting screen may easily be made at home. The camera which you have been using for field work will answer for the simpler forms of portraiture, though, of course, a regular portrait box and a Rapid Rectilinear Lens are great conveniences, and enables one to do better work. Save your earnings from the small camera to purchase a larger and better one as you progress in your work. You may go so far as to hire a small gallery for the pursuit of portraiture as a business; but, in case you cannot, or do not care to do that, you may make very good portraits of your friends and neighbors in your own home.

Select a good sized room with plain white walls, if possible, and one which has one or two large windows on one side of the room. If the window or windows should face the north, so much the better, as the northern light is the evenest the year round, sun never shining from the north. If there are windows on two sides of the room, those on one side must be closed so that all the light for illuminating the subject will fall in one direction.

A serviceable background may be made by stretching some dark woollen material over a clothes-horse, or other suitable frame; or, on a pinch, even plain brown wrapping paper may be used for this purpose. If the clothes-horse is divided and hinged in the middle, as is very often the case, one panel may be covered with a material of neutral color for the background, while over the other panel is stretched white cloth or paper to serve as a reflector. If the wall has not been papered it can be painted a dull gray color, or covered with a paper of a similar solid color, and thus the absolute need of a background may be obviated. A reflector, however, will generally be found necessary when a side light is used.

When a home-made background and reflector is

employed, such as we have described, the subject and apparatus is arranged somewhat as shown in the following crude diagram.



Of course no very elaborate effects can be obtained with so simple an outfit, but good portrait busts may be made. The lighting facilities are limited, and it is therefore well not to attempt too much in this direction. If the best side of your subject's face happens to be the one away from the light when posed, it may be brought into prominence by turning everything around so that the camera and background change places.

In posing the subject, and in the arrangement of the drapery and other details, there is ample room for all the artistic taste and judgment which one may possess. The photographer should seek to bring out the characteristic features and the individuality of his subjects. This he can do much better than a professional in the city, for he has the advantage of an intimate acquaintance with his subject, and knows what is characteristic in attitude and expression, and what is not. Occasionally an accessory, such as a table, may be introduced with good effect, and the real furniture of one's home will be found to photograph quite as well as the papier maché articles of a professional's studio. Family groups may also be photographed in this way very satisfactorily.

Such portrait negatives need not be retouched very much, if at all. The defects may easily be obliterated by the slight use of an ordinary lead pencil. Print by the favorite method, and if retouching is resorted to at all let it be very slight, beginning a considerable distance from the head and gradually shading off into whiteness. Mount the prints on plain white cards without gilt edges or anything to detract from the likeness itself, though a plain beveled edge will set off a picture to advantage.

I have purposely said nothing about the developing and printing processes, for they are fully described in the instruction book which always accompanies the camera, and it is better to follow the one method described in your book. There are so many different processes, it only leads to confusion when more than one is described, so that I always advise the beginner to stick to the simple method set forth in his instruction book, or which will be found with the plates and the printing paper.

I would caution everyone taking up photography either as a pastime or a profession, to be most scrupulous in the care of his utensils. When chemicals are employed, the least carelessness may result in a failure.



All the trays and pans employed in the dark room should be most carefully washed after being used; and the one set apart for the "Hypo" solution should never be used for anything else.

Developing may be done in any room where the light of day can be totally excluded. As a rule, it will be found more convenient to develop at night when the kitchen, the cellar, or the barn is as good a place as any other. Of course only the red light will be used, a "Ruby" Lantern accompanying every outfit. The printing can be done only on a bright day, though it is not necessary that the sun should be shining. The mounting and subsequent operations can be done at any time.

There are over fifty thousand men and women who are making their livings by means of the camera in this country, and a great many more thousand who are following the fascinating art-science as a pastime. There are not many photographers, however, who are as successful as Sarony, though in this profession as in all others, there is always "room on top." By persistence, industry, and conscientious endeavor, you may be another Sarony. Try it!

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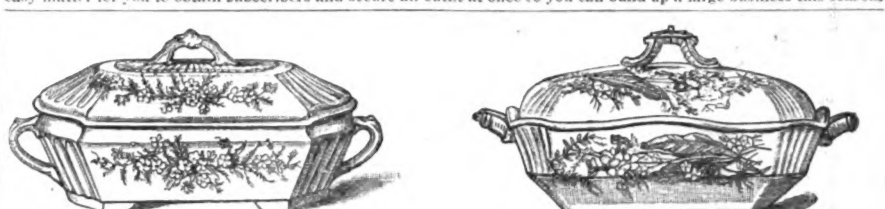
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We have been doing business in Boston for 17 years, and the publishers of this paper will testify to our undoubted reliability. We do a business of over \$300,000 yearly, and our Cash sales of Dinner, Tea and Toilet Sets, Silverware, Lamps, etc., amount to \$65,000 in 1891 aside from our Tea and Coffee sales. Our Illustrated Price and Premium List tells the whole story. We like to mail it to all who write for it; it costs you nothing and will interest you. 138 pages.

THE LONDON TEA CO., 815 Washington Street, Boston. Please mention COMFORT when you write.

A HANDSOME FREE! CLOTH-BOUND BOOK

Upon receipt of only Twenty-five Cents in postage stamps or silver we will send The People's Home Journal on trial for Three Months, and to each subscriber we will also send, Free and post-paid, any one of the following books, handsomely bound in cloth:

1. The Scarlet Letter. By NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE.
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7. Tizrah Ann's Summer Trip. By JOSEPH ALLEN'S WIFE.
8. Merle's Crusade. By ROSA NOUCHETTE CARVE.
9. The House on the Marsh. By FLORENCE WARDEN.
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These books are all handsomely bound in cloth, and stamped in black and gold. They are published complete and unabridged, and printed in large type on good paper. Each book is 7 inches high, 5 inches wide and about an inch thick. They embrace some of the most famous books ever published. We will send your choice of any one of them, post-paid by mail, also The People's Home Journal for three months, upon receipt of only 25 cents. The People's Home Journal is a large and handsome 16-page, 64-column illustrated literary and family paper, containing Serial and Short Stories, Sketches, Poems, Useful Miscellany, Household, Humorous, Fancy Work and Children's Departments, and everything to amuse and entertain the whole family. Serial stories by Mrs. Southworth, Mrs. Mary J. Holmes, Mrs. Ann S. Stephens and Mrs. May Agnes Fleming will be commenced during your subscription. This great offer is made to introduce the paper into new homes. It is the most wonderfully liberal offer ever made by a reliable publishing house. Never before was a handsome cloth-bound book ever given as a premium at such a low price. Every home may now have a charming cloth-bound book of permanent value. Perfect satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. As to our reliability we refer to any newspaper published in New York, also to the Commercial Agencies, as we have been established nearly 20 years and are well known. Send today. F. M. LUPTON, Publisher, No. 106 Reade Street, New York.

NO MONEY WANTED



In Advance, EXAMINATION FREE! A WONDERFUL OFFER! \$20 Outfit READ! We have bought at a forced sale for \$20.00, the entire lot of over 2000 hand-some cases of Silverware, at LESS THAN ONE-THIRD what it Cost to Make Them. You can have one case for less than half the cost to make. JUST THINK! A handsome large plush and satin ornamented and decorated silver case (case alone at retail sells for \$5.00, you can't imagine from the picture how beautiful it is) and the following described extra heavy plated silverware of a very high grade made of heavy plates of coin silver over hard inner metal and fully warranted, viz: 6 Table Knives, 6 Forks, 6 Table Spoons, 6 Tea Spoons, 1 Butter Knife, 1 Sugar Shell and 1 Napkin Ring, (a place arranged in the beautiful plush and satin tray for each piece.) The silverware alone being of such high quality would be VERY cheap at retail for \$15.00 or the complete case a bargain at \$20.00.

OUR OFFER! Cut this advertisement out and send to us immediately and we will send the complete outfit to you by express C. O. D., subject to examination (all express charges paid by us). You can examine it at the express office, and if satisfactory PAY THE EXPRESS AGENT \$5.05 and take the regular \$20 outfit. Order immediately; there is only 200. They will soon be gone. Address ALVAH MFG. CO., 170 West Van Buren St., Chicago, Ill. Mention COMFORT.

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To sell our goods by samples to the wholesale and retail trade. Liberal salary and expenses paid. Permanent position. Money advanced for wages, advertising, etc. For full particulars and references address CENTENNIAL MFG. CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

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using "Anti-Corpulence Pills" lose 15 lbs. a month. They cause no sickness, contain no poison and never fail. Sold by Druggists everywhere or sent by mail. Particulars (sealed) 4c. WILCOX SPECIFIC CO., Phila., Pa.

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PROF. RICE'S SELF-TEACHING SYSTEM. All can learn music without the aid of a teacher. Rapid, correct. Established 12 years. Notes, chords, accompaniments, thorough bass laws, etc. Ten lessons, 10 cents. Circulars free. G. S. RICE MUSIC CO. 243 State St. Chicago, Ill.

OUR CREATEST OFFER

READ THIS! We mean just what we say: Direct from Japan we have imported a great quantity of elegant handkerchiefs. They are even handsomer than this picture, being made of a rare fibrous material by a secret process known only to these famous foreign artisans; the goods being known as shifu-silk crepe. Each handkerchief is about 15 inches square and has a charming border of various designs. These are used in many of the wealthiest homes for parlor decorations; they form a magnificent display. Ladies are delighted with them. We are the largest importers, and to introduce our goods we make the following offer: If you will send us three of these handkerchiefs, also a small

grant Japanese Crepe Table Mat, decorated in beautiful designs by a fine Japanese artist. (We have seen mats like this advertised by another firm for 25 cts.) Remember, the above four articles will be mailed, postpaid, carefully packed, at once, on receipt of 10 cents in stamps or postal notes. Three lots for 25 cents. Read the following, which is but one of the many letters received: "I have received the Japanese goods you advertise, and am astonished at the wonderful bargain. Enclosed find 50 cts. for six lots." VIOLA H. RAY, Somerville, Mass.

We make the above great offer to introduce our goods as we want agents everywhere. Address all orders to WESTERN SUPPLY CO., 602 N. 4th St., St. Louis, Mo.

Agents Wanted on Salary

or commission, to handle the new Patent Chemical Ink Erasing Pencil. The quickest and great at selling novelty ever produced. Erases ink thoroughly in two seconds. No abrasion of paper. Works like magic. 200 to 500 per cent. profit. One Agent's sales amounted to \$620 in six days. Another \$32 in two hours. Previous experience not necessary. For terms and full particulars, address, The Monroe Eraser Mfg Co., X 87, La Crosse, Wis.

How TO MAKE A Fortune

WANTED—Salesmen, who can easily make \$25 to \$75 per week, selling the Celebrated Pinless Clothes Line or the Famous Fountain Ink Eraser; patents recently issued. Sold ONLY by salesmen to whom we give EXCLUSIVE TERRITORY. The Pinless Clothes Line is the only line ever invented that holds clothes without pins—a perfect success. The Fountain Ink Eraser is entirely new, will erase ink instantly, and is a king of all. On receipt of 25c. will mail sample of either, or sample of both for \$1, with circulars, price-lists and terms. Secure your territory at once. THE PINLESS CLOTHES LINE CO., 121 Hermon Street, Worcester, Mass.



THE BUSY BEES OF COMFORT



Today we have the pleasure of announcing the award of prizes offered in the August COMFORT. There is one drawback, however, to our pleasure and that is that we cannot give a prize to everyone. The award was not an easy matter, for among the thousands of letters received, coming from every State in the Union, there were many suggestions duplicated and of equal merit, while many others, although not sufficiently original to claim one of the prizes offered, yet seemed to have some special excellence.

Therefore the publishers of COMFORT have decided to award a supplementary list of twenty-two prizes of \$2.00 each, in addition to the four heretofore announced. And they trust that the Busy Bees will show their appreciation of this liberality by getting all their friends and neighbors to at once subscribe for COMFORT, now that it is by far the best, most interesting and cheapest household journal in existence. If the Bees will act upon this hint and get up clubs the publishers will soon announce another prize competition. A large number of letters received after the date given as the close of the competition, have not yet been opened, but will be referred to at some future time. Of those that came in season for the competition but failed to secure a prize, the best will be given from time to time in our Busy Bee columns.

The successful competitors are:
1st prize, \$10 to Mae Nevins, 6 designs, published in October No.

2nd " \$5 " "Arizona Bee,"

3rd " \$5 " "Juanita S."

4th " divided between Sallie B. McCoach and Emily Taylor, \$3.00 each. This prize was divided because the merit of both was so similar that it seemed impossible to decide between them.

The special prizes were given to the following contributors: Mrs. Annie Rickett, Lillian Fass, Evelyn G., Jessie Ennis, Birdie M. Williams, Ida E. Clark, Florence Wyman, Laura Bell, Millie Lewis, D. L. Rhoades, Mrs. J. H. Smith, Lou Thomas, Edna Johnson, Mrs. H. F. Hubbard, Mrs. A. M. Dee, Lucy Corbin, Mamie Parkes, Ollie Wood, Manta Cox, Mrs. S. J. Russell, "Oldtown," and Fannie Wareskjold. The latter is our youngest contributor, being only ten years old.

We feel deeply gratified by the interest shown and trust that those who failed this time will not be discouraged but try again another time.

Cheeks have been sent to the fortunate ones, with the single exception of the Arizona Bee, who did not send her name and full address. Upon receipt of these necessary particulars she will be placed in prompt possession of her prize.

The first prize articles were described in the October issue, so we will go on to the second, a novel and useful arrangement of cigar-boxes, making them both useful and ornamental.

Procure 12 sheets tissue paper, 10; sandpaper, .05; furniture varnish, .05; 1 sheet blotting paper, .05; 1 roll baby ribbon, 13-38. That is your bill. Ask any dealer for five empty cigar boxes. Scrape the paper strips from the outside, sandpaper them lightly, and give two coats of varnish with an old tooth-brush, if you have no other. Remove the paper linings, and paste on the inside of each cover a piece of blotter which will fit into the box when the cover is down. Paste by the edges two thicknesses of soft wrapping paper in the bottom of each box. Cover this with tissue paper by rubbing between the hands. Print in straggling letters with red ink on each blotter-lined cover, an appropriate motto. On the first box, letter "Excuse haste and a poor pen."

Cut a piece of blotter 1-2 inch larger than the box and paste on the bottom to serve as a blotting pad. Bore two small holes in the cover, through which draw sufficient ribbon to tie in a bow with many loops and ends, to lift the cover by. Do this with all the boxes. Confiscate father's pen, pencils, eraser, dividers, rule and pen-wiper, to lay in the box, and one gift is finished.

No. 2. Letter the motto "A stitch in time saves nine." Make a cushion of old muslin filled with sawdust, and cover with two thicknesses of crinkled paper pasted at the edges and large enough to slash into fringe all around. Fasten the cushion on the outside of cover by ribbon drawn through holes bored at the corners. Your druggist will give you some small sliding boxes, (or match boxes will do) paste one of these on the inside of cover to hold papers of needle. Needle-book, emery-bag, scissors, thimble and spools laid in the box complete a gift for mother.

No. 3. For the brother who smokes print the motto "I find but ashes." Paste a small piece of sandpaper on the side unless you use a match box with "scratcher." The bottom of the box is to be used for cigars and as an ash receiver.

No. 4. Another box may bear the motto
"A busy, busy bee is she,
Attending to the mending."

Fasten a needle-book to the cover outside, and in the box lay scissors, thimble, darning cotton and egg.

No. 5. In the last box letter "Everything in its place." Make a cushion similar to that described in No. 2 for the cover. Place in the box three balls of cord, the ends of which draw through small holes bored in front. Two holes in the bottom hold the ribbon by which the kitchen scissors are hung. A sliding box on the inside of cover may hold a paper of No. 4 needles and a spool of No. 30 white thread. Lay in the box a small note book and pencil. Fasten the box to the kitchen wall by a nail driven through the back.

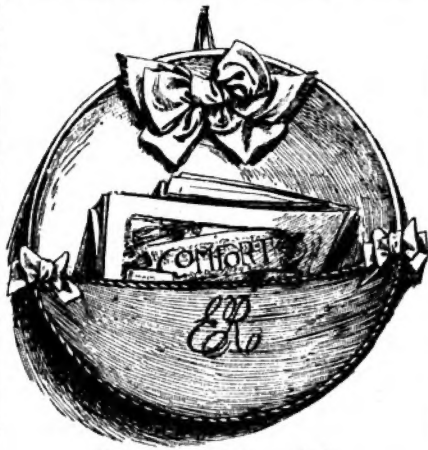
If you paint or embroider you can add greatly to the beauty of your gifts.

The third prize—gift for a gentleman—is awarded to "Juanita S.," Richmond, Kansas, for a razor-strop case. It is made as follows: Take 1-8 yard of pale yellow satin, the same quantity of golden brown and of two still deeper shades down to russet brown. Cut

pasteboard into strips the size of the end and sides of an ordinary razor strop and cover every piece with the satin, on both sides. On the darkest strip paint pale yellow primroses, on the next lighter, paint a spray of yellow jasmine, on the pale yellow, put a bunch of bulrushes and on the other paint the monogram surrounded by violets. When perfectly dry, overcast the sides and end closely together, then feather stitch over the seams with rope silk to match the satin. A bow of golden brown ribbon is tied about the handle of the strop and the case is completed.

The divided fourth prize is given to S. B. McCoach of Sistersville, West Virginia and Emily Taylor, Albany, N. Y., for the following designs: Reading Board. Take a half-inch board thirty inches long and ten wide. Round the corners and cover both sides with any kind of plush or velvet if you want it extra nice. Put several layers of wadding between the cloth and board, put braid or ribbon one half inch around the edge. Fasten it on with fancy head tacks; put the tacks about an inch apart. Make two pockets 7 inches long and four wide, on cardboard foundation, and tack firmly at each end of the board, to hold spectacles, pencils, etc. Fasten two pieces of cord or ribbon to the upper edge of board 10 inches apart, tying them in a bow to form a loop by which the board may be hung up when not in use.

The article described by Emily Taylor seems peculiarly fitted for the comfort of an elderly person. It is a footstool made of a board 14-16 inches, heavily padded and covered with a lambswool mat. The legs are four large clothes hooks, screwed into the board and gilded, or a curtain may be fastened around the footstool.



WALL POCKET. Laura Bell.

We now give a description of the special prizes. The pretty wall pocket in the illustration is from Laura Bell, who says, "I bought a Chinese tea-tray and gilded it. Then I made the pocket by cutting a crescent the size of the tray, covering it with garnet velvet on which I worked the initials and lining it with silk to match. Where it was joined to the tray (the tray being straw I sewed it) I covered with pale blue silk cord. At the top I sewed a blue silk bow of ribbon, under which is the loop to hang up by."

Jennie Ennis of Trafalgar, Ind., wins a prize by a suggestion for a novel souvenir called "A young man's needlework album," and made as follows: Get a number of plain pieces of silks, satins and velvets 7x4 inches wide for the inside leaves of the album. First make the covers by covering two pieces of pasteboard 7x4 inches wide, with some bright-colored velvet for the outside and silk for the inside, having different colors for both silk and velvet. Have the velvet on the front cover worked in pretty design and bright floss, with the words "A Merry Christmas." Some nice fringe half an inch wide sewed around the edges of the backs would be very tasteful. Work three small holes in fancy stitch of different color on one end of the back (there should be no fringe on this end). Now for the inside leaves. Get from fifteen to thirty pieces of silks, satins and velvets, 4x7 inches wide, and work 3 small holes in the end of each piece with fancy stitch—the holes of both backs and leaves must be arranged so that when placed squarely on top of each other the holes will be directly over one another. Take a silk cord 15 inches long and lace it through the holes; fasten tiny tassels at the ends and tie in a bow-knot. The giver of the album works her name and a sentiment or quotation, if so desired, on the first leaf, and the recipient will hand it around to his woman friends to do likewise, thus making a novel autograph collection.

Lillian Fass of Leeds, Mass., is one of the special prize winners. The contribution is a handsome pair of vases from a pair of mustard bottles, or any wide-mouthed bottles, or jars. First give the bottles or jars a good coat of glue or varnish; and when almost dry spread on



SPLASHER by Birdie M. Williams.

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BLOTTER. Millie Lewis.

putty about 1-4 of an inch thick. Then gather all your old jewelry, spoon bowls, tiny bottles,



RAZOR STROP CASE. Juanita S.

handsome buttons, pigs teeth, sea-shells, acorns, peach-stones, corkscrews, and any old scraps of metal; stick them on the putty while soft, and then bronze. A very attractive pair can be made by painting the vases with silver bronze; and when dry paint the articles, such as shells, buttons, acorns, bottles, stones and spoon-bowls with copper bronze.

A splasher by Birdie M. Williams of The Palms, Los Angeles Co., Calif.: Take a yard of heavy unbleached muslin or butcher's linen. Split the cloth lengthwise, making two splashes of equal size. Use the selvedge for the upper edge and fringe the sides and bottom to the depth of two inches. If you can knot the fringe, so much the better. An inch from the fringe on all three sides make a row of simple drawn-work about 3-4 inch wide, with red embroidery cotton. Mark on the splasher the words "Splash—Splashing—Splashed" and work in outline stitch with the red cotton.

Next on our list of specials comes Mrs. Annie Rickett of Savannah, Georgia, with an English idea called a "salivarium." It is made thus: Get a box large enough to hold a cuspidor, fasten the lid with hinges, cover top and sides with dark blue or crimson cloth fastened with brass-headed tacks in small plaits to form a scant ruffle. Pad the lid with old flannel before covering. The top and edge of curtain may be embroidered if desired. This is useful in a bachelor's room and can be made available as a footstool also.

Millie Lewis furnishes a plan for a pretty blotter. Fold in book form two sheets of blotting, the outer one 16 inches long and 22 inches wide, before it is folded, the inner one two inches smaller all round. The upper side of cover is decorated with three envelopes drawn in outline with corners overlapping, the work being done with a fine brush dipped in gold paint. On the upper envelope is put the address of the person for whom the blotter is intended, a stamp is also placed in proper position upon it and a post-mark is simulated as follows—"Blotville, Dec. 25, '92." This occupies the middle of page, the envelopes being full size, while just above and to the left, as if rising beneath them is a bunch of red clover blossoms and leaves painted in water colors. A bow of narrow grass-green ribbon is tied through the cover at top and bottom, and a bow of several loops and ends is tied at the side holding the leaves in place. To the inner side of the cover is fastened a sachet bag made of wide ribbon, the same shade, and as long as the blotter. Two pieces of ribbon of required length are sewed together after being filled loosely with cotton sprinkled with sachet powder, the ends should be fringed. The sachet is intended to delicately perfume sheets of paper which may be held by it within the blotter.

From D. L. Rhoades, Aberdeen, So. Dakota, comes a curious and amusing handkerchief case whose possibilities can hardly be realized from the illustration. Cut two pieces of pasteboard 4x6 inches. Sprinkle cotton wadding of the same size heavily with sachet powder and fasten a piece on each piece of pasteboard, covering with silk cut large enough to fold over the edges of the pasteboard, fastening the edges of the silk by mullage. Cover the other side of the foundation with plush of a harmonizing shade. Both covers may be alike or in different colors as preferred. Conceal the edges of the plush by silk cord caught with invisible stitches. Take two strips of ribbon long enough to cross the ends of one cover, and fasten, 1-2 inch below the edge at each end, fastening one end only to one cover and the other end of the ribbon to the other cover at the same distance from the edge. Cut two more ribbons long enough to cross diagonally just below the straight ones. Fasten the ends to the sides of covers as the others were and you will have a handkerchief case that opens equally well from either side, the handkerchief changing in a surprising way from under one set of ribbons to the other.

Our little ten year old contributor in Prairieville, Texas, sends a description of a sachet-bag made in banana form. Get silk as near the color of the fruit as possible and cut in as many divisions as are in the skin, using a banana as model. Sew the seams on the wrong side, leaving one open. Through this insert cotton wadding thoroughly sprinkled with sachet powder. Close and sew neatly as possible.

Mrs. J. H. Smith of Brewster, N. Y., sends an odd little match holder. Gild two clay pipes and attach to a little Japanese basket in which a small tumbler has been placed. By getting pipes with large bowls and then fastening them so the bowls turn upward they may be made to hold burnt matches. The glass in basket serving for the unused. Fasten the pipes under pretty bows of ribbon and hang by ribbon from the gas fixture.

Ida E. Clark of Clinton, N. Y., sends directions for making an especially desirable work-basket. Get a square, deep basket with a lid that can be lifted off. About an inch and a half from the bottom string fine wire across sides and ends making nine squares, first having lined the basket with satteen or silk of a pretty color. Take a square piece of the same material and spread over the wires, pushing it down between the squares so that nine little bags are made, and fasten at the crossing of the wires. This gives bags for buttons, hooks and eyes, etc., and the sewing can be laid upon them without disturbing them. Fasten a simple needle book within the basket. Line the cover and fasten on each end a strip of the silk or satteen about 3 inches wide, slightly gathered on both edges. With a button on the cover and an elastic loop in the middle of the upper edge of this long shallow pocket, you have receptacles for thread, wax, tape, etc.

"A Bee from the Oil Metropolis" named Flo Wyman, sends a design for soiled collar bag. She says: "A pretty one can be made by taking a piece of blue and white striped ticking 32 inches long and 14 inches wide. Cover each white



MATCH HOLDER. Mrs. J. H. Smith.

stripe with fancy embroidery stitches in different colored silks, the greater the variety the prettier. On the blue stripes sew two or three silver and gilt tinsel cords. Line with pink satin, with an interlining of crinoline. Then with linen thread gather the long sides, draw each up tightly and fasten. Make a rosette of pink ribbon to put on each side and hang by another piece of the ribbon passing from one side to the other.



SCREEN. Miss Lou Thomas.

A beautiful idea for a screen comes from Miss Lou Thomas of Pearsall, Texas. She says: Take four nice firm corn-stalks and cut them the desired length. Polish the stalks and paint, twining around each, a wild morning glory vine, allowing some buds to be partly open, showing the pink of the flower. These stalks form the frame of the screen. Now take cream velvet the size desired and paint on it two stalks of growing corn, one on each side, with a few sprigs of grass at the foot of each stalk. Midway between, and on a line with the base of the stalks paint a basket filled with the ears of the green corn, and let one or two be lying half out. On the ground near the basket are three more ears, one not touched, one with the shuck a little open, and the other half shucked. Near the top of the screen and above the basket paint some lines descriptive of corn. The stalks are fastened with brass tacks at the corner. They may then be left as they are or the corners knotted with corn-colored ribbon. The body of the screen may be fastened in the frame with small tacks, but care is needed not to split the stalks. Another and cheaper screen is made on the same plan by using a kind of crash like towelling instead of velvet and working the whole thing in corn-colored silk instead of painting, tying the corners with corn-colored ribbon.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7.

Dyspepsia! New Cure!

A new and positive cure has been discovered in Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets. So great is the faith of the proprietors that it will cure any form of Dyspepsia or indigestion, that they will send a Free Trial Package to any sufferer who will send one 2c. stamp for postage. Address, F. A. STUART CO., Marshall, Mich.

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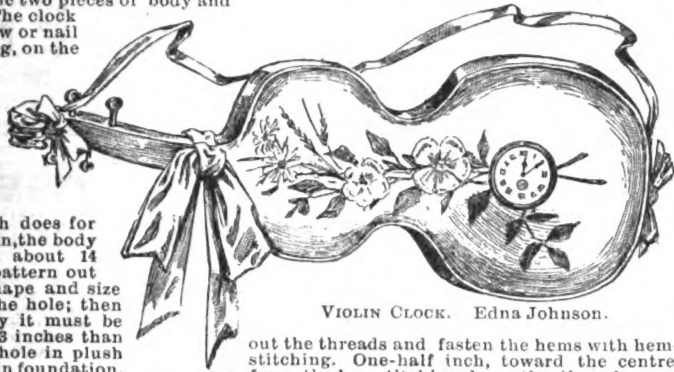
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BUSY BEES.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6.

A Shut-in friend, Edna Johnson of Frankfort, Ky., contributes a good suggestion for framing a small clock. From heavy pasteboard boxes cut two pieces the shape of a violin, 10 1/2 inches through the swell at bottom, 9 3/4 inches through swell at top, 6 1/4 inches at narrow part where the curves are cut. With a sharp knife cut a hole the size of clock below the middle, through both pieces. Cut a handle 9 inches long and about 1 1/4 inches wide of three or four thicknesses pasted together with glue. Paste the handle between the two pieces of body and glue that together. The clock is fastened by a screw or nail just above the opening, on the back, but first it must be covered after the hole is cut and the handle glued, or bronzed or painted black. Get a pretty piece of plush (about 1-2 yard) electric blue or ruby are pretty. The width of the plush does for the length of the violin, the body of which should be about 14 inches long. Cut a pattern out of paper the exact shape and size of the violin, with the hole; then shape the plush, only it must be larger all around by 3 inches than the pattern; cut the hole in plush so it will fit over hole in foundation. Stamp a spray of roses and daisies on the plush with the stems and a few leaves below the clock. Make the leaves of arseane or coarse chenille and the roses of three shades of pink ribbon with centres of coarse chenille in two shades of yellow. Make the daisies of white or yellow cordene. Fit your plush smoothly over the violin by sewing in long stitches from side to side on back. Cut a lining of paper cambric, turn in all around and overhand down neatly around the edge. Tie a bow of ribbon on the handle where the plush leaves off, then with narrower ribbon suspend it by tying near the end of handle and sewing at lowest extremity onto lining. Hang on two nails, one placed higher than the other.



VIOLIN CLOCK. Edna Johnson.

out the threads and fasten the hems with hem-stitching. One-half inch, toward the centre, from the hemstitching draw the threads so as to leave a space just wide enough to draw in the ribbon, which is woven up and down through the threads. Leave the ends of the ribbon long enough at the corners to tie in little bows. One-half inch in from the ribbon, draw the threads until a space 3-8 of an inch wide is formed. Thread the needle with the embroidery silk, which should match the ribbon in color, and taking three threads on the needle, make a simple drawn work stitch called back-stitch. The scrim should of course be cream white and the color chosen for the decoration should harmonize with the prevailing color in the room.

The rope scrap-basket, by an Oldtown Bee, the jewel-case by Mrs. Russell of Oldtown, Me., and the triplet vase by Evelyn G. of Pleasanton, Iowa, were all described in the October number.

Trusting the Bees will all be pleased with the selections, again thanking all contributors and hoping success will crown the efforts of all who undertake to make the several articles.

I remain as ever, BUSY BEE,
(Care of COMFORT, Augusta, Me.)

A LUCKY HIT FOR LADIES.

Mrs. Marshall Gray, Chapel St., New Haven, Conn., has discovered an article for giving a brilliant, lasting polish to tin, brass, glass, gold, silver and plated ware. Ladies send for "Facts about Kitchen Kohinoor" and coin money selling guaranteed recipe.

THE CHRYSANTHEMUM.

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CHRY-S-an-them-um is the golden flower—for its name comes from the Greek word "chrysos," gold—furnishes a striking instance of two facts. First, that the "fashion" changes in flowers as in gowns; second, that art can be made to assist nature. A dozen years ago the chrysanthemum was comparatively unknown in America, the Chinese aster being the only representative of the family at all common. It is now nearly twenty years since an Englishman named Robert Fortune saw in Japan gardens flowers of such beauty that he could hardly believe them to be highly cultivated varieties of the aster. An enthusiast on flowers, he sent to his English home a number of seedlings. These attracted attention from florists and lovers of flowers very speedily, but the interest remained confined to the few for years. Gradually it spread, however. It came to America. Florists here took up the culture of chrysanthemums with eagerness, and it is safe to say that to-day the finest types of the flower are produced in our own country. New forms and colors are constantly being produced by the skill of the florist, and Dame Nature herself must lift her eyes in wonder when she sees how Art has competed with her.

The chrysanthemum is the national flower of Japan as the rose is of England, the thistle of Scotland, the shamrock of Ireland, the fleur-de-lis of France. It appears on both the personal and official crest of the Mikado. The flower alone appears on official documents and is embroidered on flags and banners. The flower and leaves are seen on the personal belongings of the Mikado, and in the imperial gardens grow such wonderful chrysanthemums as were never seen elsewhere.

The English and American florists, however, as was said before, have succeeded in developing these flowers into many wonderful varieties. Among these are the incurved, those with flat petals, other varieties with petals fluted or quilled, some with long, quivering petals glossy as satin, others of heavy, velvety texture. In color there is simply no limit. Recent years have produced wonderful golden brown tints, like sunlight shining through the russet leaves of autumn foliage, crimson like the heart of a red rose, purple soft as twilight, and all radiant tones of pink and yellow. It is even probable that soon a definite, delicate blue will be obtained, as the leading florists are now experimenting with that object.

Among the most beautiful are the Black Douglas, a deep crimson that is almost black, Val d'Or, a golden yellow, Princess Meletia, a lovely bluish white, Kiota, deep yellow, Lady St. Clair, pure white, the Pink Ostrich Plume and the Lillian B. Bird, a peculiarly beautiful flower of great size, pale pink in color.

The chrysanthemum is easily raised from seed. When sown in February or March the plants will attain large size and blossom profusely the following autumn. The young plants need rich soil and should be plentifully watered. Liquid manure may be applied once a week.

A NEW IDEA.

Until recently the high retail prices of Sewing Machines has prevented their introduction into thousands of homes. It has remained for the Cash Buyers Union of Chicago, Ill., to be the first to abolish the injurious agency system of selling sewing machines. They will ship first class machines to any one at lowest wholesale prices and allow privilege of 10 days trial free in your own home. See advertisement.

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Wanted in every County to establish a Corset Parlor for the sale of Dr. Nichols' Celebrated Spiral Spring Corsets and Claspings. Wages \$40 to \$75 per month and expenses. We furnish complete stock on consignment, settlements monthly; \$3 Sample Corset free. Send 18 cents postage for sample and terms. Nichols Mfg. Co., 378 Canal St., New York

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The Globe Card Co. has always been noted for promptness in filling orders and for excellence of cards and premiums. This year to introduce our goods in thousands of new homes, we make a grand offering: For 10 CENTS we will send 12 lovely Golden Ring Cards, name on 1 Magic Name Reveal, 1 Grade of Kismet (answers all questions), a large lot of Album Verses and Comemurms. Agents' complete outfit, and this lovely GOLD Ring. Don't confound this ring with the cheap ones sold by many card printers; this is GENUINE ROLLED GOLD plated. We warrant 1 year. We lose money on this offer, but hope this to introduce our excellent goods to many new customers. GLOBE CARD CO., Box 91, Centerbrook Conn.

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BACHELORS' COMFORT. Mrs. A. M. Dee.

From Mrs. A. M. Dee of Mc Mineville, Oregon, comes a timely hint for a bachelor's comfort. Take a heavy silk of some rich dark shade, 8 inches long 3 1/2 wide. Line with a lighter silk and bind with ribbon of same shade as outside, leaving ends at top to tie. Attach two pockets, one for two spools of thread, one for needles, thimble and buttons, with drawing string in top of each pocket. Put a strap for scissors. Fill the various compartments with the necessary articles, roll up, tie and your "Bachelor's Friend" is complete. Lucy Corbin of Columbus, Ohio, sends some excellent suggestions for the old people's comfort. For grandma she describes a shoulder cape. Cut a yoke 5 or 6 inches deep, in one piece. Any person should be able to cut the pattern of such a yoke by fitting it on her own shoulders. Cut from any suitable cloth, also a yoke piece of cambric for a lining. Make a frill of the cloth of an oblong piece 18 inches deep by 1 1/2 yards wide. Sew to the lower side of the yoke. Pink the edges of the frill around the bottom and up the front to the yoke. Finish with a rolling collar of one thickness, the edges of which are pinked. This makes a nice house-cape, that grandma will appreciate. It may be closed at the yoke with hooks and eyes or ribbons may be sewed on at the neck. This cape may be made from broadcloth, or lady's cloth. For grandpa our friendly Bee proposes a foot-muff to be made as follows: Make a lambswool rug 2 feet by 2 feet 6 inches, fur side up. Line with flannel the under side. Make a semi-circular pocket of the fur, 8 inches deep and about 12 inches wide. This is to be placed on the rug, fur side in. The outside of the pocket may be faced with satin and embroidered if desired. The edge of the rug and the edge of pocket may be finished with a quilting of ribbon.

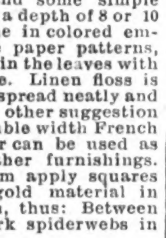
A Bee in Eldora, Iowa, named Mamie Parkes, comes with a plan for utilizing old umbrellas. She says: Take four umbrella handles and fasten firmly in the middle tying a large ribbon around to conceal the nails or wire. Cover a large box of stiff paste board with some pretty material and tack on the sticks. Little pockets may be attached inside for buttons, etc.

Ollie Wood of Cinnaminson, N. J., sends directions for two practical articles. The first is a bed-spread made as follows: Take bolting sheeting the size you wish and make a border of paper disks (half-moons) and some simple leaf, arranging irregularly to a depth of 8 or 10 inches from the edge. Outline in colored embroidery cotton around these paper patterns, remove them, and work veins in the leaves with finer cotton of a deeper shade. Linen floss is better than cotton. Hem the spread neatly and feather-stitch. Ollie Wood's other suggestion is for a table cover. Take double width French flannel cut square. Any color can be used as best harmonizes with the other furnishings. Hem neatly and above the hem apply squares of some old-gold material in Grecian design, thus: Between the squares work spiderwebs in old gold silk.

Matilda Cox contributes directions for a blizzard cap which is surely comfortable. With brown zephyr wool cast on each of three steel needles 36 stitches. Join as for a stocking. Knit and seam alternately 8 rows, ninth row knit 3 seam 1, continue until you have a piece 10 inches in length, cast off 36 stitches. Continue knitting on the other two needles backward and forward (seaming 3 and knitting 1 on the wrong side) for 2 inches. Cast on 36 stitches on your 3rd needle, join to the others and knit as before, 4 inches. Then cast off the stitches on 2 needles, leaving the 36 on the needle last cast on. Knit backward and forward as before, until you have a piece long enough to form the crown. Cast off, turn the cap inside out, and join it by sewing it together

WORKBOX.

Mamie Parkes.



SPIDER WEB.

Ollie Wood.

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Among other things for general thanksgiving is that the cholera failed to gain a foothold on American soil.

Do not miss Christmas COMFORT and do not let any of your friends and neighbors miss it. Among other good things it will contain a thrilling detective story.

The original prize stories we publish in this issue are but samples of what is to come, and the time for getting up clubs was never so favorable. With its great improvements in every department and its novel, copyrighted features, COMFORT now surpasses all other publications, both in point of popular interest and price. We ask every one of our eleven hundred thousand subscribers to critically examine this Thanksgiving issue and then consider that COMFORT costs but 25 cents a year. As will be seen by our advertisements, rich prizes await the get-together of clubs.

With this issue we introduce another charming, new and original feature—the Children's Circle of COMFORT. The regular monthly illustrated chats under this head cannot but prove highly entertaining and instructive to the little ones. We will make this charmed circle one of our prize departments if our young friends will get up clubs for our paper at 25 cents per year, now that the reading season has again set in and COMFORT has become the most entertaining and cheapest publication in existence. Try it, boys and girls. Every one of you can win a prize, and besides this, carry tidings of comfort and joy to other homes.

"The World's Fair Through a Woman's Spectacles." Under this title our talented contributor, Miss Alice Turner, will tell the readers of December COMFORT what she saw in Chicago during a recent two weeks' visit.

A correspondent suggests that those who so earnestly recommend the closing on Sunday of the World's Fair, to which all nations are invited, should deal with the matter in a more liberal spirit and remember that at present there is a perpetual Sabbath upon the earth, for the Greeks observe Monday; Persians, Tuesday; Assyrians, Wednesday; Egyptians, Thursday; Turks, Friday; Jews, Saturday; and Christians, Sunday. The latter, including all sects and divisions, are by no means the largest denomination in numbers, and nine-tenths of the world's total population are of other beliefs. However as the World's Fair is to be held in America where Sunday stands as a typical American institution, the question is receiving a thorough discussion from all points.

In the death of Whittier and Tennyson the world has lost its greatest poets of modern times. Widely differing in their songs as in their surroundings, they touched the minds and hearts of millions of their fellowmen.

John G. Whittier has been aptly called "the poet of the people" and his genius was ever exercised in their behalf. Every great moral cause received his advocacy, and his efforts were constantly for justice, right and truth. His services in behalf of the abolition of slavery, both by tongue and pen, were of the greatest value and he did much to strengthen the cause of the Union by his poetic appeals to the conscience of the people. Whittier was the personification of the sweetness and simplicity of his poems. He held firm convictions of morality, religion and truth, but his greatness of soul gave him tolerance of the beliefs of others. He had nothing but charity for the misguided and kindly sympathy for the unfortunate. His tastes confined him closely to New England, whose history and traditions he embodied and whose people he loved. His works were voluminous and read in every household. "Snowbound" probably best reflects his genius and character. His life was pure and gentle and he is forever enshrined in the hearts of the people.

Alfred Tennyson, like Whittier, lived to a

serene old age, and his death was the extinguishing from earth of a great light which will shine with greater brilliancy in immortality. The eminence which he had reached, and the honors that were heaped upon him brought to him a publicity that was distasteful, and his latter years were those of a recluse. His genius and versatility early placed him in the front rank of English poets. His fame increased with each of his more important productions, and he was known and appreciated the world over. The most popular of his works is "Enoch Arden," while among his greatest may be mentioned "Locksley Hall," "The Princess," "In Memoriam" and "Idylls of the King." The latter was his favorite work, to which he devoted the greatest attention and care.

After the death of Wordsworth, Tennyson was appointed poet laureate. For many years he has written a poem on the occasion of every great English event. Personally he was a very eccentric, unlovable man, but his peculiarities were overlooked in the contemplation of his great poetic genius, which in his time stands unrivalled.

SENTINELS OF THE SEA.

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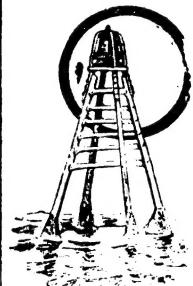


A LIFE on the ocean wave," can be endured if not enjoyed, in these days of swift steamers, for no matter how rough the voyage the ship speeds onward and there is a port ahead. But to embark for an eight or ten months voyage in a vessel which remains firmly anchored in one spot, tossing and heaving amid the fiercest gales and wildest seas, is an experience which few care to undergo. At several points along our coast the United States Government, finding it impracticable to erect light-houses, have anchored staunch vessels upon dangerous reefs and hidden rocks. These vessels are called light-ships, and of course bear no sail, but upon their bare masts twologue octagonal lanterns slide. These lanterns are about five feet high and five in diameter, with the mast for a centre, and every night the lanterns are hoisted up the masts. The tops of these masts are likewise decorated with round iron gratings, set edgewise, giving the appearance of a light ball on the top of each mast. This enables the light ship to be readily distinguished from an ordinary vessel in the daytime.

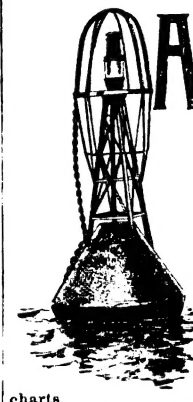
The lightships are usually anchored with heavy "mushroom" anchors, shaped like a colossal iron umbrella, to which the vessel is attached by means of chains as thick as a man's leg. This chain, after passing over the bow of the ship, descends deep into the interior of the hold and is securely fastened to the main timbers. Notwithstanding these precautions, some of the lightships have been torn loose from their anchorage by violent storms, washed out to sea, and finally turned up, many days after, in some far distant port. As to the pitching and tossing of the vessels thus shackled to the bottom of the sea, the Ancient Mariner himself would have good excuse for being sea-sick.

The lives of the crews aboard these lightships is one of the most extreme monotony, occasionally varied with intense excitement and great danger. Probably the most perilous station of any is aboard the vessel located on the New South Shoals, near Nantucket, out of sight of land. This vessel has been adrift no less than twenty-three times. The crew numbers about a dozen hardy seamen, mostly old whalers accustomed to voyages of two or three years, who are supplied with provisions for several months. In midwinter for many weeks they toss and plunge, unvisited by any living thing save perhaps some wild sea-fowl. Occasionally the lighthouse tender, a small steamer, creeps cautiously out until she can see that the lightship is still in place, then turns about and retreats to calmer waters nearer shore. The lightships all have heavy fog-bells which are tolled when the weather thickens. The South Shoal lightship has at times been surrounded by a continuous fog for many weeks, during which the bell was tolled incessantly night and day. When at last the weather cleared, the crew had grown so accustomed to the sound of the bell that upon its discontinuance they could not, at first, sleep soundly nights.

Among other methods of marking obstructions to navigation are floats or buoys. The most simple of these are the spar and the can buoy. The spar buoy is a round stick of timber 20 or 30 feet long, to one end of which a chain and anchor is attached. The upper end of the spar consequently sticks out of the water almost upright, and is painted different colors, signifying that safe passage is to be found to the right or left. Other directions for finding channels are given by different coloring. The first form of the can buoy was doubtless that of a cask or barrel, painted, tightly bunged, and attached to a rope and anchor. Can buoys are now made cone-shaped, with the anchor chain fastened to the point of the cone.

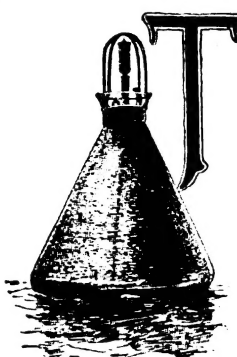


N the can buoy, for a foundation, various attachments have been added. The bell buoy, for instance, consists of a pyramidal framework erected on the flat top of a can buoy, and furnished at the apex with a large toll bell, which the rocking of the sea causes to toll most mournfully. The location of every buoy, lightship and lightship is accurately noted on the charts all vessels carry. A nun buoy, that is, pointed at both ends. These buoys are made of boiler iron, painted red, or some other conspicuous color, riveted at the seams. They are hollow, watertight, and large enough to contain sufficient air to float them easily.



NOTHER contrivance is the lantern buoy, arranged upon a nun-shaped buoy. Illuminating gas is compressed into cylinders and placed inside of the buoy. Sufficient quantity can thus be stored to feed the flame for over a month, when the lighthouse tender has to make a visit to it and put in another cylinder. As the provision is made for putting it out the light burns continually, though the flame is hardly noticeable in broad daylight. As vessels from distant shores approach our coasts, an anxious watch for buoys is maintained. And when one of these signboards of the ocean appears, or sounds faintly over the water, the location of the vessel is determined by reference to charts.

The next illustration is of the whistling buoy.



above the water, in which, by the action of the waves, a little chimney-like orifice has been formed. During a storm, the waves beat with great force into this cavity, compressing the air, and by forcing it through the small outlet at the top produce a powerful whistle-blast, heard for many miles. On calm days the whistle is silent, but the more severe the storm, the louder and more frequent the warning.

This natural whistling buoy, however, is not the only curious thing about the Farallone Islands. These tall, rocky peaks are owned by a company who for years engaged in the novel enterprise of gathering the eggs of the myriads of sea-fowl which occupy these crags as breeding places and disposing of them in the San Francisco markets. The concern are said to have gathered and sold over one hundred thousand dozen in a single season. The men engaged in this pursuit are called eggers.

The sea-fowl live on fish and mollusks of various kinds. The latter being encased in their flinty shells would seem, at first thought, to be invulnerable, but the clever birds carry a musket or a clam high up in the air and by dropping it upon the rocks below burst open the shell and expose the unfortunate inmate; then like a flash the bird darts after its food only to find, perhaps, that some rival, demurely seated near, has arrived at the spot first and gobbled up the choice morsel.

FISH GYMNASTICS.

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Fish often jump bodily out of the water, over various obstructions, or to catch insects. Trout catch objects from below, while salmon seize them from above. This fish will also jump out of the water when caught, often succeeding in tearing itself loose from the fisherman's hook.

In order to keep up the supply of fish in the rivers it is absolutely necessary that they be permitted to go up stream to the river's source to spawn the eggs which will develop into young fish. It is therefore the law, in many sections, that all builders of dams above a certain height, must construct "fish stairs"—an arrangement of small ascents, which the smaller fish will be able to successfully navigate.

More serious than the height of dams, is the discharge of refuse into the streams from factories, saw-mills, etc., causing such mortality among the fish—which will develop into young fish. It is therefore the law, in many sections, that all builders of dams above a certain height, must construct "fish stairs"—an arrangement of small ascents, which the smaller fish will be able to successfully navigate.

But the most remarkable fish in many respects, is the East Indian hunter, who shoots a drop of water through its snout to a distance of three or four feet with unerring aim hitting a fly or insect and stunning it so that it falls into the water and is easily "bagged" by this clever sportsman.

ART IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

It may not be generally known that Mrs. Benjamin Harrison has exceptional ability and taste as an artist, especially in the line of flower-painting. Since she has occupied position as lady of the White House, she has found time to paint a magnificent group of orchids on a porcelain panel, which is now being made public, and which is entitled, "A White House Orchid."

Harrison is not the first lady bearing high honors who has shown a decided taste for art. Princess Louise, Queen Victoria's third daughter, has for years studied under the best masters, with flattering results, while the Queen's other daughters, Empress Frederick and Princess Beatrice, are well known as being gifted in the same direction.

NUTSHELL TRUTHS.

Too much rest is rust. As heaven sends her dews to those on earth, those on earth should render their dues to heaven.

The fastest young men and women are the most easily overtaken by disaster, disease and destruction.

That the pen is a mighty weapon is proved by the fact that more people kill themselves with the pen than with the pistol.

It does not follow that because one blushes he has done something to be ashamed of. The roses, strawberries and peaches have done nothing to be ashamed of.

FACTS ABOUT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

A section of one of California's big trees is to be a feature of the Government building.

The head gardener of the city of Paris will superintend the floricultural work of the French section at Chicago.

The department of electricity at the World's Fair will contain the late Cyrus W. Field's collection of souvenirs of the first Atlantic Cable.

Lyons, France, is the greatest silk manufacturing centre in the world, and thirty-two of its manufacturing have decided to make a magnificent display at the World's Fair.

A \$75,000 club house for wheelmen is to be erected near the Fair grounds. It will be maintained during the Fair as headquarters for bicyclers from all over the world.

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Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest will be published. They must be brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may exceed the latter limit. Contributors must write on one side of their paper only.

Every month a number of prize monograms composed of the writer's initials, will be awarded to those sending the best contributions. These monograms, which will be most desirable ornaments for stationery, cards, etc., will be printed in connection with the respective letters, and new electrotypes of same will be mailed, post paid, to the prize winners.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

NOVEMBER PRIZE-MONOGRAM WINNERS.

M. J. Coudray, William Christie,
Myron B. Putnam, Ed. L. Preston,
Debbie A. Hink, H. P. Bell,
Samuel H. Goss, Ida Orrell,
Ned M. Selkregg.

MY DEAR FRIENDS:

How fast the time flies away! here we are, almost at Thanksgiving Day, all the beautiful summer and autumn gone, the fruits gathered in, and everything prepared for winter. It seems only a few days ago that we were celebrating Independence Day, and basking in the heat of summer. But the change of the seasons does not affect our meeting together, and so we find ourselves once more gathered for a chat, this full November morning. I would so much rather hear you talk than to talk myself, that I shall not take up any more time in preliminaries, but proceed at once to the letters and trust it is perfectly understood that I am not responsible in any way for the sentiments therein expressed. The Editor desires that the different sides shall be given a hearing in these discussions, so that the readers may be able to judge for themselves about the various matters. Letters on the subject of temperance and other like questions are therefore inserted which the cousins well know from my position in the past, are in direct opposition to my views, and which, of course, I am not responsible for.

"I must disagree with Clara Stevenson; I cannot abide the thought of women joining hand in hand with the men and marching to the ballot-box," as she expresses it. Why should woman join in the turmoil, the strife, the push and struggle of political life? How often would she meet with rudeness and unkindness which she neither had the spirit to bear or the strength to resent.

"Yes, God has made me a woman; And I am content to be Just what He made, not reaching out For higher things, since He, Who knows me best and loves me best Has ordered this for me."

Miss S. does not know the vice, the effrontery and rudeness she would meet, or she would not care to 'march' into political life. Ruler Haggard says: "Woman is the helm of all things human. For her are wars; for her men toil and save up gain; for they do well or ill. If this be true, then if all women were true and pure, they would cause men to 'do well.' It isn't always boldness, self-assertion, 'bound-to-have-my-rights,' spirit that moves the universe. I am reminded of a dialogue which I recently read between Pat and a citizen. It ran as follows:

Citizen—"What are you doing now?"
Pat—"Beggaring, we're striking."
Citizen—"What are you striking for?"
Pat—"Our rights."
Citizen—"Who has wronged you?"
Pat—"I don't know."
Citizen—"Well then, what are you striking for?"
Pat—"Well, I'm striking for me rights, and begorra, I'm going to have 'em!" LANKY JIM."

"It has been a twelvemonth since I came among the cousins. COMFORT life, during this time, has been a new one to me. I have seen many things, I compliment the face of my young lady cousins, especially Jeanie, Kansas Sundowner and Southern Girl. Adam's Wife, I honor you! You spoke from the heart, and a true heart spoke. Why does woman wish to become man? Has she not been accorded all the highest honors of humanity? What is the mission of woman? a poet has said:

"To give birth To the mercy of Heaven descending on Earth The mission of woman—to sweetly infuse Thro' the sorrow and sin of Earth's registered curse The blessings which mitigate all."

Can she infuse these blessings from the stump, or by mingling at the ballot-box? What a lowering of the standard of womanhood! There are many, many women who would not avail themselves of the high (?) and inestimable (?) privileges of the ballot-box, if it were accorded them; thank Heaven it is so! Professional women are very well, so long as they remain women; but will they? Speak of modesty and gentleness being the attributes of woman—is the court-room or jury-box the place for their exercise? Where is the Attic Philosopher? I am one of his disciples, but we would rather he teach us silence from precept, than from example. Novel-readers, pet kittens, and religion disposed of, lovers and votaries of Bacchus tortured, the cousins turn their pens on the red man of the West. Indians, as the other races, have degenerated. The Noble Red Man lives only in fiction. History knew him not, didn't have time to make his acquaintance. Indian nature is as doubtful and as variable as the cousins' pseudonyms. This column is given us that we might know one another, so why not work that it might be made perfect? It is indeed a splendid success, but there is always room for advancement. There's no equal to our COMFORT!

"Open the door, O hermit, and let a poor wanderer in." I live in far-off Western Texas, away down close to Mexico. I am proud of being an American, prouder of being a Southern girl, and proudest of being a Texan. But please don't think I am a red-hot rebel, for I am not. I love our whole Union, but my own particular part of it best. Madcap seems to have impressed upon you that our country is infested with roving bands of desperadoes. I wonder where he lives anyhow. We rarely have any trouble of that kind; the Mexicans are pretty bad to steal along the border, but the Rangers keep them in order. It seems that some of the cousins are very much in favor of Woman's Rights. Let parents educate their daughters so that they can all some public position if necessary, but don't, dear girls, think of the ballot. Can we afford to run the risk of becoming coarse and common by mixing with all sorts of people? There is enough for women to do. The greatest battles that ever were won, have been

fought silently. The surest way to gain what we want is to educate brothers and sons up to a higher plane. The mothers and sisters are a power in the land, if they only realized it, and made a correct use of their power. Education, not laws, will stop the great vices.

Enough has been said on this subject for one time, and we will now hear a few words from a new cousin.

"I am a new subscriber to COMFORT, hailing from Pennsylvania. In the copies of this excellent paper which I have seen, I have noticed no letters from this section of the country, telling of what I am about to speak of. Our little town is situated on Lake Erie, in the northeastern part of the 'chimney' of the State, hence its name, North East. What I especially wish to describe is the grape culture, which is very largely carried on here. North East is about the center of the great grape belt of western Pennsylvania and New York. At this season of the year, the last of September and all of October, all around us is activity. Wagons loaded of baskets filled with luscious grapes may be seen on their way to the cars, where they are transferred from the wagons to the cars to be sent all over the U. S. Grape pickers and packers are in great demand, and they earn from fifty cents up to a dollar and a half a day, according to ability. The grapes are picked from the vines and laid in crates, in which they are taken to the packing house. By the way, the grapes are not 'picked' from the vines as the word really means, but are clipped off by picking shears. In the packing house, deft fingers cut the bruised grapes from the stem, and pack the good ones carefully in baskets; they are then weighed and the covers fastened on. Now they are ready for shipping, and as I said before, we can see the loads of baskets ready for shipping, going through the streets any day, Sundays of course excepted.



The grape culture gives employment to a great many persons. Before the picking season comes, there are the vineyards to be cleaned out and cultivated, and the grape baskets to be made and handled. Making the baskets is done by young men who receive forty-five cents a hundred for doing it, and many of them earn over two dollars a day. This is a great grape section and anyone who would take a trip to North East about the first of October would feel well repaid for the expense. NED M. SELKREGG, North East, Pa."

EDITOR'S NOTE.—Letters like the above are at all times welcome.

"Having nothing else to do one evening, I climbed up in the large cherry tree which stands by the front gate. I found a very comfortable seat, leaned back, and was soon in the land of dreams. I do not know how long I slept, but I was awakened by the sound of voices. I opened my eyes, glanced down, and beheld Bilkins and Wilkins sitting directly beneath me on the top rail of the fence. These wretched creatures were partners in the saloon business. It was a dark night but the rays from an electric light fell directly on them so that I could see them plainly, as well as hear what they said. I was just beginning to doze again, when Bilkins broke the silence by saying: 'I tell you, we saloon-keepers have got to get a move on ourselves, or those temperance cranks will beat us yet. Here they have already founded Harvey, which is only a 35 minute ride from Chicago, and now'tallow a drop of liquor sold there, and not a house of ill-fame in the place; it is all in the deed. And they are even talking about taking our screens from us.'

"Do tell," ejaculated Wilkins. "And more than that, a dozen families from here have bought land, and will move there. I tell you, something must be done," said Bilkins, turning on his subject. Wilkins nodded his head, but said nothing; evidently he was waiting for Bilkins to go on. 'And I have a plan,' he continued, 'which will just do 'em up.'

"Do tell," said Wilkins. "The buffet was a great thing for us when it was established, but we need something more so as to be able to keep up with our enemies; and I propose painting the outside of our buildings with beautiful pictures, so as to make 'em look nice. Do you see? But Wilkins was evidently very blind, for he did not see, and he wanted to know how that was going to benefit them. 'Why, you blockhead,' by having both outside and inside of our saloon attractive, we will get more customers. People will stop at our place who would otherwise pass it by unnoticed, and young men just from the country to see the sights will be easy victims.' Here he gave a self-satisfied chuckle, as if he already saw his plan in operation. 'Nobody will tell them, and—' but he got no farther. I could stand it no longer. I forgot everything, that they did not know of my presence, that I had been playing the part of eavesdropper, and I cried out:

"Yes, they will too, I'll tell 'em. I shall proclaim it from the house-tops," and I began to descend. But I was as totally unprepared for what happened as they were. On glancing up and seeing me, they both jumped and darted away, crying:

"Oh a ghost! a ghost!" and the last thing I saw was their wild frightened eyes as they glanced back at the tree.

As soon as I reached the house, I looked at the clock, and what was my surprise to find the hands pointing to the hour of midnight. But even then I did not understand why I had been mistaken for a ghost, and it was not until I passed the mirror, and saw that I wore my white wrapper, that I realized the state of the case. IDA ORRELL, Murphysboro, Ills."

"The subject of temperance was so ably and candidly treated in the last number of COMFORT that I am tempted to give you my own views of what I consider true temperance. The very fact that the sale of liquor is prohibited leads men to desire it, while on the contrary, if the moderate use of light wines and beer were encouraged to the degree of sanctioning its sale, there would be less drunkenness and misery. I am a sincere advocate of temperance in all things and as such I believe in allowing others to indulge their tastes for wine or beer. If either or both should become our national drink, the temperance question would be solved. It is not well to argue that if there were no intoxicating liquors there would be no drunkards. One might as well say that because some men steal there should be no money. A natural propensity is bound to assert itself. The natural desire for stimulation must be gratified in some form or another. The true solution of the liquor question lies in legislation and in the proper training of children. Danger lies not in temperate use but in intemperate abuse of liquors. Let the traffic be conducted under certain restrictions and proper regulation and give the law strict enforcement. Every danger that can come under human control is placed around with safe-guards. Wise legislation would regulate the liquor traffic and place it in the hands of responsible parties. You might as well try to stop the tides as to banish liquor from the earth. It is here to stay and will be used so long as the human race shall exist. The world's great men, and the people of the most intelligent and civilized nations have been, and are, as a rule, moderate drinkers. They are temperate, too, in their other pleasures. They are temperate, too, in the discussion of this question; an example that many of the cousins who have written on this subject might do well to follow. SAMUEL B. GOSS, Buffalo, N. Y."

EDITOR'S NOTE.—This letter will close the series

on this question, as there are others of importance which the cousins desire to discuss.

"I live in the town of Park Side, a small suburb of Chicago, and I believe that I reside nearer the World's Fair than any of the cousins—in our house is about three blocks from that magnificent place. Every day a person can here gaze upon the beautiful buildings, almost from within the house, and for 25 cents one can gain admission to the grounds, where he can see the immense structures more fully, besides seeing the picturesque waterways, the island park and many other delightful features. Allow me to state here a few facts and figures concerning the Fair. The site of the Exposition comprises 662 acres. The principal buildings are located in the central and southern portions of Jackson Park. There are nearly thirty buildings being erected by the Exposition Company, and in addition to these it is expected that at least fifty States and foreign nations will erect at least fifty buildings. The buildings were designed by the most eminent architects in the United States, the design of the Woman's Building being the work of a woman. The Administration Building is the architectural gem of the main group; it will have a magnificent golden dome 250 feet high and 150 in diameter. The buildings will consume 97,000,000 feet (7,460 carloads) of lumber and 18,000 tons of steel and iron. The Main Building will be the largest ever erected for any purpose; 9 times the size of the Capitol at Washington would fit in this mammoth building. To light the grounds and buildings it is estimated that 7,000 incandescent lights of 16 candle power each, will be required. Motive power for the Exposition will be furnished by engines of 24,000 horse-power. WM. CHRISTIE, Park Side, Chicago, Ill."

"I was much surprised at the sentiments expressed in Western Student's letter. We find that when the white man first came to the New World, he found the Indians the kindest, most hospitable people that one could desire. They welcomed the European to their shores, which the Great Spirit had given to His 'children of the forest.' They gave him the best that they had. But how did the 'Pale-face' repay their kindness? Those who called themselves Christians, drove from their killed them, home in ruins. What the red man who saw a foreigner and not seek themselves? shown the red man, with bitter time while the Indians occupied a part of the territory now known as W. Va., in the county of Monongalia, two Indians came to the vicinity of the Fort and were met by the whites and killed. Not satisfied with killing them, they inhumanly skinned one of them, and used the skin to make belts, etc. Western Student says, 'The Indians make no advancement, while the Caucasian race have risen to the splendid civilization of the present.' This I admit; but under what conditions have the two races lived? The Caucasian had the blessed religion of Jesus Christ to civilize him; the Indian had not. Remember the Caucasian made no advancement from the dark superstition and cruelty of heathenism until Christianity began to exert its influence. I believe the Indians would always have lived peaceably with the whites if they had been treated right. H. P. BELL, Henrietta, W. Va."

"I bring you the sad tidings that one of your number has gone from earth. On May 23, as the sun went down, the pure spirit of one whom you knew as William Thames, went to God. I often wondered why, during his sickness and delirium, he talked so much about Aunt Minerva. In his lucid intervals, he tried to tell me about his cousinly correspondence; but it was not until a month after his death, when mother and I performed the sad task of looking over his trunk, that I understood. There were many letters, and several years of COMFORT tied together. Do you wonder that we feel a deep interest in the cousins, and that COMFORT will ever have a tender corner in our hearts. I wish that I might tell you something of the beautiful life of the one gone. Let me give you one picture that will help. When the dear mother bent above the coffin form, these were the words she spoke: 'Oh my darling, how many times those hands have lightened your mother's burdens!' I might sum up his life no better than in the words of a Christian minister who knew him well: 'He seemed to me one of the most perfect Christian men I ever met.' God bless and keep you all in the prayer of WILLIAM THAMES' SISTER."



We shall long remember the cousin who has gone from us, and the sympathy of all our band will go out to the family in their sad bereavement. May the remembrance of his life make ours purer and better!

"LET'S GO A-FISHING."

We arose one bright Sunday morning in the month of December, and after taking a brisk walk in the bracing air, we dressed ourselves and went dutifully to church.

What the text was we do not remember, but we do remember thinking the sermon not long enough for after church time the morning there was nothing to do until church time at night. There was no place to go for we were strangers in the city of San Diego. Walk? Well to confess the truth, we had done so much walking in the last few days that our blistered feet objected to that form of exercise.

Hiring a carriage was too expensive, and the street cars were always packed. No, that was not to be thought of.

At last along came a man we had met once or twice in a business way, and feeling sorry for us for being alone in a strange land he said, 'Let's go a-fishing,' and we went. Now this man owned a yacht, and when we arrived at the wharf and went on board the "Sea Gull," we found a little party of both sexes, all "going fishing"; we had our scruples—but we went.

Away danced the yacht over the smooth waters of the bay. We were quiet; unusually so. We realized it was Sunday.

As we said before we had our scruples about "going a-fishing" on Sunday, and by the time we were out of the bay, and on the mighty deep—hunting for "that little bay just down the coast where there's just lots of fish"—our scruples were full grown; if they had been half the size before we started, that they were afterward, we never would have went.

Shading our eyes with our hand we gazed long and earnestly over the blue waters to the church spires. We did not want the earth. No, we were too modest, but oh, how we did long for a church, a good substantial one, or even the privilege of standing in the shadow of the spire.

Presently we leaned back and closed our eyes trying to comfort ourselves with the thought that our mid-day meal was not fit to eat and would have made us sick anyway; but all in vain. And in a much less time than one would have supposed possible, we "consented to the deep" our poorly cooked meal,

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breakfast, the supper we ate the night before and a host of other things. But did those "scruples" go? Not a bit of it. Lying limp and helpless—just where we do not remember, but it was on board the yacht—we wondered in a vague, dreamy fashion, why they had not gone with the other things, but they hadn't. To be sure they were the only articles that had "stayed with us," but they were stronger than ever.

Finally we persuaded our friends to draw near enough to shore to enable us to land, as, "after due consideration, we did not want to fish."

When we gained the beach, we sat down for a while to meditate upon the total emptiness of life, particularly in our own case.

We realized as never before that "nature abhorred a vacuum," and we did not blame nature a bit. We gave it as our opinion that man was never intended to carry a vacuum around in his anatomy.

One question was uppermost in our minds, it was, "Will we be able to reach the motorline with nothing but our scruples to back us?"

We arose at last and with bowed head made our way to the motor—running from the city to a suburb some miles distant—boarding the train we were soon in our own rooms.

After taking a nap and supping on a bowl of bread and milk we felt refreshed, and in a short time retired to bed, having resolved never to go fishing again on Sunday, for, easy as most things are to get rid of, "scruples stick closer than a brother."

DEBBIE A. HINK, Maryville, Mo.

"I was glad to read the letter in the last issue of COMFORT in favor of opening the World's Fair on Sundays. Its broad and liberal spirit and its tone of practical Christianity commend itself to the attention of thoughtful readers. But, much as I respect its sincerity I cannot agree with its conclusions. The great Columbian Exposition will bring together exhibits of the material progress of the world; all nations will be represented there by their products and their people. While visitors from foreign lands will gaze with wonder upon the evidences of the remarkable development of the United States in all branches of art and industry, the greatest exhibit of all will be that of American institutions of which we are so justly proud—the form and character of our national and municipal government, our schools and

churches, our society, our homes and all things that make this 'The land of the free and the home of the brave.' The American Sunday is a typical American institution. From the earliest times it has been religiously observed as a day for rest and the worship of God. Take away the observance of the Sabbath and the firm foundation of our national Christianity would be undermined. Many plausible reasons may be advanced for opening the Fair on Sunday, but there is a superior principle involved in the matter to which we, as a Christian nation, should strictly adhere. The moral and spiritual development of a people is as important as their material advancement. I believe that there can be no real progress in those things that uplift humanity where spiritual advancement is neglected. Let us show to the world not a Continental but an American Sunday—a day devoted to rest and of devotion to church and home. 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.'

EDWARD L. PRESTON, Dallas, Texas.

"Perhaps a sketch of life at Mt. Holyoke College would be interesting to the COMFORT girls and boys. People generally believe that Mt. Holyoke, Mass., is a 'sex door' to a convent. They think that the student here spends her time entirely in studying or at religious services; that she never dances, goes to theatres or parties or sees a young man. All these are erroneous ideas. True it is, there is much study; not many branches at a time but the few there are gone through with great thoroughness. When Tuesday evening comes it brings many a young man to our pleasant parlors. Every evening the girls dance in the gymnasium. In the fall occurs the Seniors' reception to the freshmen, the regular Halloween party, the Soph's peanut hunt, and the Freshmen's cob-web party.

In the summer there are most delightful drives to neighboring towns, walks to the tops of mountains, from which you can plainly see Holyoke; playing tennis or rowing on the lake in our own lovely grounds of seventy acres. In the winter there is coasting and skating back of the building, as in the front everyone must be dignified. Each girl furnishes her room to suit herself. Many are very cosy, with pictures on the wall, portieres at the doors, easy chairs, couches covered with pillows, and desks inviting one to study.

In these rooms many 'spreads' are given, varying from those furnished by a caterer to the humble ones fixed by one's self. In each room are the sets of regulations, which are observed because it is honorable to do so. One hour a day we devote to light domestic work. On the whole, our life is very pleasant, varied and enjoyable.

M. J. COUDRAY,
Ivanhoe, Lake Co., Ills.

"The sentiments expressed in the cousin's letter which appeared in the October COMFORT, relating to opening the World's Fair on Sundays, will, I am sure, touch a responsive chord in many hearts. When we reflect that this is to be not an American Fair, but a World's Fair, to which we invite Anabaptists, Jews, Buddhists, Mohammedans and Idolaters, all of whom have their own Sabbath days, as well as the million of non-sectarians or religious people who, like the Shakers, regard all days equal, to be kept holy by ceasing to do evil and learning to be and to do good, when we reflect upon these things, the fairness and justice of opening on Sunday must appear to all unprejudiced minds. We should remember that the Declaration of Independence of our great and glorious country was written and signed, and our Constitution formed, by unbelievers like Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson, and that the latter document expressly forbids religious legislation.

For ages a large body of Christians, while insisting upon religious freedom for themselves, have exhibited a narrow and unreasonable desire to interfere with the religious freedom of others. This is not a matter of opinion—it is a matter of record and fact. For untold years, for instance, the wise people of the world insisted that the world was flat. One man claimed that it was round and turned upon its axis. A few so-called Christians arrested, imprisoned and tor-

tured him to death just as certain so-called Christians of the present day arrested and killed the man King of Tennessee who kept the true Sabbath—Saturday—and ploughed his field on their Sabbath—Sunday.

While I am a believer in true religion and true Christianity, I am willing to accord to every mortal the freedom of his convictions, and it is but reasonable to ask that all men should evince the same fraternal spirit of toleration. Those who do not wish to go to the Fair on Sunday should put no obstacle in the path of others who find on that day their only opportunity of witnessing at the great exhibition the innumerable evidences of the wonderful progress of humanity. While the church has done and is doing good work, there are good men outside the church who have done and are doing good. I believe with the Rev. E. A. Horton, of Boston, that 'the World's Fair should be opened on Sunday; in the first place, because I believe that theoretically Sunday should be made a bright and cheerful day, one of uplifting rather than depression. In the second place, I believe the Fair should be open on Sunday because similar experiments in keeping open public institutions have been successful, not only in Boston but the world over. Look at Boston, for instance, with its Public Garden, Public Library and Art Museum open on Sunday.'

MYRON B. PUTNAM,
Cleveland, Ohio.

[This question having been discussed on both sides, we cannot now give further space for its continuance, as other cousins are anxious to be heard on subjects of equal interest.—Editor.]

I suppose we must be closing our talks now, or the Editor will be reminding us that we have overrun our space. Try to make the letters brief, especially those written for the prizes.

With kindest wishes for all, your affectionate
AUNT MINERVA.

Facts About November Fashions.

BY RUTH PARKTON.

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WITH November we begin to feel that premonitory chill in the air which warns us that it is time to think of winter gowns and wraps. If we are wise we shall also think of winter shoes and stockings, although, I am sorry to say, very few women have been in the habit of paying proper attention to this most important part of the wardrobe. Just think how foolish we should consider the woman who went out in the street in a cold December day, clad in the thin silk or muslin that was so pretty and comfortable in August. And yet is she really more unwise than the person who walks over frosty ground with her feet protected only by the thin shoes and delicate silk and lisle hosiery that she wore in midsummer? That the average woman makes no change in her footwear with the changing seasons, we all know, and I want here to impress upon my readers that a little care in this particular direction would cause a perceptible improvement in health and comfort. It is not necessary to have awkward and cumbersome shoes of heavy leather and coarse woolen stockings such as our Puritan ancestors wore. The easiest and best way to make the change is to get shoes of the usual quality but a half size larger than the summer shoe and wear a lamb-wool sole inside. The foot does not look perceptibly larger, and the added safety and comfort are obvious. Some might prefer to make the change in the stocking, substituting cachemire for silk, lisle and cotton. The cachemire is a wool so finely woven that it can be worn without the prickling sensation that a coarser woolen fabric gives. Well, so much for the feet. Now let us take up the question of wraps.

First, I want to say a word of advice. Do not be persuaded into getting one of the long, heavy coats that seem likely to be worn. Physicians and observant women agree that there is nothing in the whole range of a woman's wardrobe more hurtful, hardly excepting tight lacing. The heavy weight depending from the shoulders is inconceivably injurious in many ways. I learned the lesson by bitter experience, and I would like to preserve my readers from duplicating it. Three years ago, when such cloaks were fashionable, I bought a very handsome imported one of heavy blue cloth. Through the entire winter I was so tired and exhausted that my friends feared a severe case of nervous prostration. Life was a burden. I enjoyed nothing. In the early summer I went to a Connecticut farm and devoted myself to resting. It was a lovely spot. I rode on the hay, read novels as I floated in a boat on the little lake, went to bed early, and, in short, led a sensible life. Result: I returned to the city in splendid health. Well, November came and brought a week of cold weather with it. I thought I would wear my expensive cloak of the previous winter, another season. At the end of the cold week I was alarmed to find myself visibly failing in strength and set myself seriously to finding the cause. A thought struck me. Could it be the weight of that coat? I discarded it immediately and as the weather was warmer, wore only a light autumn wrap, and soon I ceased to feel that intense weariness on returning from an outing. With the return of cold weather I bought a short coat of cloth just as warm as the long cloak and went through the winter in perfect health. I was just as comfortable, too, in point of warmth, and nothing could tempt me to adopt a long coat for street wear, again.

The Russian blouse is still so much liked that is being made for a winter outside garment of heavy, warm cloth. Sometimes it has a Watteau pleat on the back, sometimes the plain back, but in either case is belted. This style is becoming to rather tall and distinctly slender figures and is one of the best modes for a "home dressmaker" to attempt, as the fitting is so simple.

In tight-fitting coats there is a very little change except in length. The "officer's coat" is simply an elongated basque, reaching nearly to the knee, with

military trimmings of braid. The English box coat promises to be one of the popular fashions in wraps. The back is made without a centre seam and is fitted quite closely to the form by the side pieces. The fronts are loose and double-breasted and the deep collar and cuffs and wide revers give a very jaunty air. The only finish is rows of stitching.

A fetching and useful little wrap is made of three graduated capes, the longest reaching the hips. The cloth does not extend all the way, the lowest cape being set into a surah lining and the other two adjusted on this lining. There is no height on the shoulders. The collar is high and flaring, and ribbon fastens the throat. These capes are best made of ladies' cloth. The edges are cut and not hemmed and no trimming is used. They are pretty in dark red, blue, tan or gray. These are newer than the fur shoulder capes so long worn and are especially convenient at this season, when the winter cloak is too heavy, yet a wrap is needed to throw over the shoulders.

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Home Woman's Journal

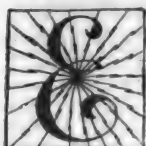
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Simple Science for Busy Breadwinners.

ELECTRICITY II. Written for COMFORT.



How to change latent into active energy and get the most work out of any substance with the least waste is a problem concerning not only scientific men but everybody.

Fuel, water and wind are the great sources from which energy and power are drawn. But power is seldom either at the place or in the form in which we want it. One great task of inventors is contriving to transport it to wherever it is wanted for use, with the least loss on the way.

Electricity is claimed to be the most economical way of transmitting power. Some of its properties resemble those of water; hence electricity is often called a "fluid." To illustrate: water in flowing through a pipe meets with a certain amount of friction against the inner surface. This has a tendency to check the strength and flow of the current. So electricity when passing through any conductor, meets with a certain amount of friction or "resistance." In the article upon electric lighting in our last issue it was explained that the friction was so great in the lamps as to heat the little carbon loop white hot, thus producing light. If a circuit is carrying too great a current of electricity its strength can readily be reduced by connecting in more wire, thus adding resistance. By knowing the strength of a current when it starts out, and the amount of resistance it will have to overcome in its circuit, electricians can easily tell how much available current will be left which may be drawn upon for power. Thus in the transformation of latent to active energy, coal is put beneath the boiler in a central station or power house, the boiler generates steam, steam drives engine, engine revolves dynamo, dynamo charges circuit of wire with electricity which is drawn off wherever needed into electric motors. But in each successive step a fraction of power is entirely lost. The engine does not get all the power there is in the coal, neither is all of the energy of the engine converted into electrical energy. The dynamo in turn uses part of its strength in overcoming the resistance in the circuit. So that if the circuit drives say fifty small motors, their combined power will be somewhat less than that of the large dynamo which feeds them all. Yet notwithstanding all these losses, much more energy remains than can be transmitted by any other method. Careful calculations show that a steam engine receives only one-tenth of the total power contained in the coal which furnishes it with steam. The other nine-tenths is absolutely wasted. But of the power which a dynamo receives at a central station, over eighty per cent is given forth again by the motors along the circuit. A later article will be devoted to an exact and simplified description of the construction and action of motors and dynamos.

To illustrate the possibilities of the transmission of power by electricity, the tremendous waterpower of Niagara Falls could be converted by water wheels and dynamos into energy and conveyed five hundred miles or more on a well insulated copper wire no bigger than one's little finger, losing on the way about one-fifth of its original power through resistance.

The particular application of electricity to be considered in this article is its use as a motive power for transportation. Electric cars are being introduced everywhere. Half the street railways in the cities of the United States use electricity. Cars of this description take up less room than horse-cars, are clean, make no smoke or smell, are economical, do not require the attendance of a skilled engineer and fireman on each car. The motorman's duties are so simple that many roads, when they change from horses to electricity, train the drivers to manage the electric. Another advantage over steam power is the very small space occupied by the motor compared to boiler, engine, fuel, tanks for water, etc. The motor is fastened to the under side of the car floor, connected with gear wheels to one of the axles. The passengers themselves furnish the necessary "weight of adhesion" to prevent slipping of the wheels.

There have been three or four methods of construction. In one the cars carried their own motive power in the shape of storage batteries of peculiar construction which were charged or refilled with electricity at the central station. This method has been abandoned on account of the great weight and bulk of the large number of batteries or "cells" as they are frequently called, which were necessary. Recent inventions have somewhat revised this plan, and perhaps eventually some way may be discovered of putting electricity into such compact form for storage as to not only render this method of railroading practicable but admit of anybody buying a car of electricity as easily as a can of oil.

Another plan was to insulate the rails from the ground with some material through which the electricity would not escape and run a current through them, but this was found to be impracticable, except perhaps on an elevated structure.

A third plan was the conduit system, the circuit being placed underground in a tube with a continuous narrow slit through which a projection on the car kept up a continuous connection with the wire. This plan was given up on account of water, mud, snow and dirt choking the slit and clogging the conduit, making connection very imperfect and allowing the electricity to escape into the ground, as the wire was necessarily bare in order to make connection with the car.

The remaining method—the trolley system—is by far the most generally in use. It has met with most opposition from some, and undoubtedly has its drawbacks and imperfections, but nevertheless is the most satisfactory and effective at the present time. People fear it because of the danger of receiving a current which would kill them; yet many prominent electricians say it will neither kill nor seriously injure a human being. The current is carried on a bare copper wire suspended about twenty feet above the centre of the track and kept stretched tight by guy wires from poles placed usually at the edge of the sidewalk. About three feet above this wire is another, much smaller. No current travels in this. It is merely to catch any broken telegraph or telephone wire which might otherwise fall across the main wire. Telephone wires are particularly to be

avoided as they would possibly lead the powerful motor current right into houses, burning out the telephone instruments and sometimes setting buildings on fire.

The connection with the trolley wire and the car is maintained by a sweeplike arrangement consisting of a long pole bearing at the upper end a deeply grooved brass wheel four or five inches in diameter. The pole is attached near the bottom to an upright post on the roof of the car, and a set of springs is fastened to the lower end of the pole, which tend to pull it toward the post, thus making the pole stand upright. These springs therefore push the brass wheel on the other end of the pole firmly against the under side of the trolley wire. The current, passing through proper wiring in the sweep, is conducted by insulated wires in the framework of the car down to the motor under the floor and finishes its circuit through the rails or track. Persons in the car cannot of course feel any electric current at all. Part of the current may be switched into an incandescent light circuit in the roof of the car so that it can be lighted at night. There is a rope attached to the upper end of the sweep, so that the conductor on the rear platform can in case of need pull down the sweep from contact with the trolley wire and break the circuit, thus stopping the car. The motorman on the front platform has in addition to the starting lever one which will cause the motor to reverse and back the car in an emergency. Of course if the sweep were pulled away from the feed wire the lamps, if lighted, would all go out, but merely stopping the car, which the motorman does by cutting off the supply of electricity to the motor, does not extinguish them.

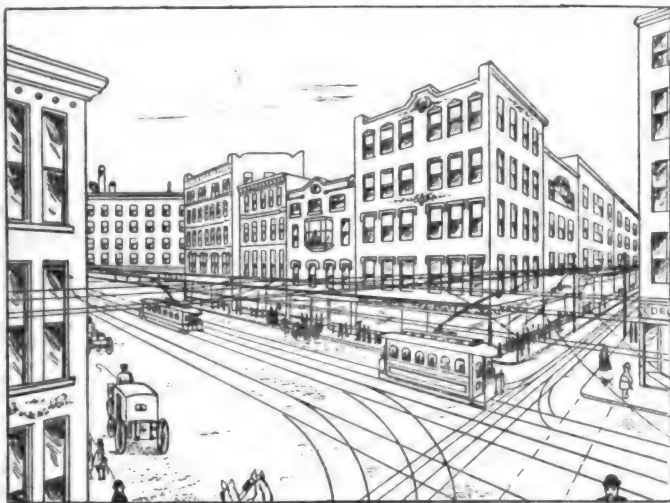
These cars can be run at any speed up to even fifteen miles an hour, and are usually equipped with electric alarm bells, worked like the lamps, with part of the main current. The motorman on the front platform rings these by pressing a button, to give warning of the car's approach, and the incessant clanging adds not a little to the din and confusion of a great city, and at street corners where two or more lines of cars cross each other the wires of the different systems form a vast and unsightly tangle overhead.

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PLAYING-CARDS.

Written for COMFORT.

"On o'er long nights, with sour looks—
They pore o'er dense picture-books."—Burns.



HE Devil's Picture-books," as playing-cards have been called, have a queer and interesting history. Whether or not his Satanic Majesty invented playing-cards we have no means of knowing, and their inventor is still a subject of speculation. Cards were brought from the East at the time of the Crusades, and when first known in Europe were named Tarots. The first consisted of 78 cards, that is, four suits of numeral cards and twenty-two picture-cards which were called Atouts. Packs of cards closely resembling Tarots are still to be found in some parts of Switzerland, Germany and Alsace, where they are used by the peasantry.

About the middle of the fifteenth century cards became articles of merchandise, and the demand for them increased so rapidly that they were soon manufactured at a moderate cost. At first they were hand-painted on thin ivory, or carved on delicate woods. Saints represented the picture cards. The Chinese claim that cards were known among them centuries before other nations used them. Their name for a card is "Shen" or "Fan." They print their cards in black on thin cardboard, and have animals or the names of animals upon them.

This year Vienna, the capital of Austria, proposes to celebrate the anniversary of the birthday of playing-cards. An exhibition of the cards of various nations and ages will be one of the interesting features.

Are You Hard of Hearing or Deaf?

Call or send stamp for full particulars how to restore your hearing by one who was deaf for thirty years. John Garmore, Room 18, Hammond Bldg., 4th & Vine, Cincinnati, O.

LADIES' FANCY WORK SET.

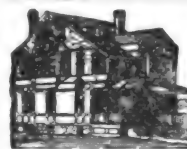
We have just imported thousands of Crochet Sets, they contain 3 vegetable ivory and steel crochet hooks different sizes, coming in a screw top wooden case; these sets are what every lady wants in her work basket or for pocket companion. One box sells for 10c. at stores, but The Publishers of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine, desire to have all read the grand Christmas issue and will send one of these complete sets free to all who send 4c. for mailing same together with sample copy of DECEMBER COMFORT.

THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME!

A large eastern manufacturing house has an original specialty for which there is a constant demand in nearly every home in America. Men and women are making from ten to twenty dollars a day handling it at their homes. No capital required. Endorsed by foremost men of the State. Write for full particulars to Look Box 1692, Boston, Mass.

FREE

If you will send us within the next 30 days a photograph or a tintype of yourself, or any member of your family, living or dead, we will make you one of our finest \$25.00 life-size CRAYON PORTRAITS absolutely free of charge. This offer is made to introduce our artistic portraits in your vicinity. Put your name and address back of photo., and send same to Cody & Co., 755 DeKalb Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y. References: Rev. T. DeWitt Talmadge, all newspaper publishers, Banks, and Express Companies of New York and Brooklyn. P. S.—We will forfeit \$100 to any one sending us photo. and not receiving crayon picture Free as per this offer.



HOW TO BUILD A HOUSE.

ARCHITECTURE, containing 104 pages, 11x14 inches in size, and consists of large 9x18 plate pages giving plans, elevations, perspective views, descriptions, owners' names, actual cost of construction (no guess work), and instructions How to Build 70 Cottages, Villas, Double Houses, Brick Block Houses, suitable for city suburbs, towns and country, houses for the farm and workingmen, and costing from \$300 to \$6,500, together with specifications, form of contract, and a large amount of information on the erection of buildings, selection of site, employment of Architects. Sent in paper cover by mail, postpaid, on receipt of \$1.00; bound in cloth, \$3.00. Address all orders to J. S. OGLIVIE, Publisher, 373 Rose Street, New York.

FREE We will send you a VALUABLE BOOK on Nervous Diseases. Address San Mateo Med. Co., P. O. Box 481, St. Louis, Mo.

FREE A New and Valuable Book on Business. 12 mo., 242 pages, nearly 100 illustrations. Send your address to N. G. HAMILTON & CO., 505 Arcade, Cleveland, O.

10,000 LADIES WANTED AT ONCE! To do writing for me at their home. Will make \$12 to \$15 a week. Send self-addressed stamped envelope to FRANCES WILLIAMS, Box 224, Marshall, Mich.

Cuts a Circle. No Good Kitchen complete without a Dish Rotary Slicer and Cake Cutter, they sell at sight. AGENTS WANTED. Sample mailed for 15c. Columbia Specialty Mfg. Co., 59 Dearborn St., Chicago.

GOOD SALARY GUARANTEED To ladies willing to do writing for me at their home. Address main envelope with stamped envelope, MISS EDNA L. SMITH, Box 400, 80th St., IND. Employer of the FAMOUS GLORIA WATER for the Complexion.

FREE A beautiful enameled scarf or stick Pin, with imitation Diamond Centre, and our book of 100 fine engravings, sent FREE to anyone sending 5c. for postage. Write at once, as this will not appear again. Knobloch & Co., 209 E. 53rd St. N. Y.

Write for the Papers.

Two sister school teachers invested \$100 each in Griffith, Chicago's factory suburb, and it grew to \$12,000 in a year. In an interview they tell all about it. A conservative Boston investor's paper sent a staff writer to investigate Griffith investments. He published an exhaustive report. The Griffith (Ind.) Enterprise sends sample copies free containing a reprint of the interview and report. Write for them.

\$25 to \$50 per week. To Agents, Gentlemen, using or selling "Old Reliable Plaster." Only practical way to replace rusty and worn knives, forks, spoons, etc., quickly done by dipping in melted metal. No experience, polishing, or machinery. Thick plate at one operation; lasts 5 to 10 years; fine finish when taken from the plaster. Every family has plaster to do. Plaster sets readily. Profits large. W. F. Harrison & Co., Columbus, O.

FREE NOT A CENT

Until after full examination. The grandest offer ever made. The finest watch ever advertised by any firm in the world. Solid gold stiffened cases, made by a new process, guaranteed for 20 years of money refunded. Goods cannot be had elsewhere. Beware of imitations. Cut this out and send it to us with your full name and address and this watch will be sent to you. Your nearest express package in an elegant plush case. You examine it at the express office and if satisfactory the agent will sell it to you for \$13.85, with the understanding that if you can buy the same grade of watch elsewhere for less than \$40 your money will be refunded. FREE. If you will forward cash, \$13.85, direct to us with your order, we will send you free a warranted 10 year gold chain. As to our reliability, ask any wholesale jeweller or bank in Boston. Address at once. This offer will not be made again. Both ladies' and gents' sizes.

KEENE'S MAMMOTH WATCH HOUSE, 1301 Washington St., Dept 8 Boston, Mass.

A Child's Love for a Doll.

HAS OFTEN BEEN COMMENTED ON.—READ ABOUT THE NEW STYLE DOLLS.

Modern invention is always making startling improvements, and the latest thing just brought out is for the young people who live away from the large cities. We have just secured sale of a new kind of dolls that are absolutely indestructible, and we show you in this cut here how they look; they are about 18 inches tall, and made of elegant colored goods. In getting this doll up we have overcome the great trouble of weight, which has made such a cost in the past when shipping by mail or express. These dolls are so constructed that you fill them with cotton, hair, or sawdust, sewing them up after receiving; it takes but a few minutes to do this, and you save nearly one dollar, and get a pretty, substantial doll for almost nothing. They will last for years and be a joy forever to any miss who desires a handsome doll as nice as her own sweet self.

To introduce these goods at once, and add another million to "COMFORT's" eleven hundred thousand circulation, we will send one doll absolutely free (all charges paid by us) to every three-months' trial subscriber enclosing 15 cents; two dolls, and two dolls 25 cts., 5 for 50 cts. Many make money selling these dolls. Send one dollar for twelve, and try it. Address MORSE & CO., Box 235, Augusta, Maine.

PEOPLE BUY THEM BY THE HUNDREDS. If ordering the second lot here is what one Lady says:

MORSE & CO., 15 Concert St., Keokuk, Iowa.

Sirs:—Dolls received. Enclosed find money order, for which send me fifty (50) more of your indestructible dolls, express paid. Please send soon as you can, as I already have orders for a number of them. Mothers and children seem equally delighted with the dolls. Resp'y, MRS. W. H. FOUTS.

Now that Holidays are coming, every child will want a present, so order to day and be the first in the field.

PHOTOS. 18 lovely Oriental 100 valuable Money-making Receipts 975 new Album Verses, and 24 pleasant Games all for 10c. UNION NOY. CO., ALBANY, N. Y.

A REMARKABLE OFFER Send 4c. in postage stamps, a lock of your hair, name, age, sex and receive a clairvoyant diagnosis of your disease free. Address J. C. BATDORF, M. D., Grand Rapids, Mich.

FREE TRIAL NERVOUS DISEASES and kindred troubles resulting from ANY CAUSE promptly cured by New Method. Address (with stamp) Acton Med. Co., Washington, D. C.

MEN HOME CURE I will send you FREE a prescription that will quickly restore you to HEALTH, STRENGTH and VIGOR. Thousands have been restored through me. Address L. C. HOWARD Marshall Mich.

OUR BIG ALBUM PREMIUM.



ELEGANT SILK EMBOSSED PLUSH ALBUMS, leaves highly decorated with Daisies, Ferns, Golden Rod, etc., etc. Extension Silvered Clasp, Gilt Edge, Spring back and the most stylish, best gotten up LARGE PHOTO ALBUM ever imported into America, being a foot long, over nine inches wide and more than three inches thick, coming in finest colors, most tastefully arranged leaves for cabinet and photo size pictures you ever saw. They will last for years, and you can now get one of these superb premiums FREE for a Club of 6 yearly subscribers to COMFORT, at 25c. each. We do not sell them but if you have not time to obtain all the subscriptions, you can subscribe for some of your friends and sell the Album for several dollars as it is such as was sold for \$8.00 at one time. Address, PUBLISHERS OF COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

\$500 IN GOLD A WATCH FREE Given to EVERY PERSON sending a correct answer to the following WORD PUZZLE:

C ★ ★ ★ A G ★

The four letters designated by STARS which have been omitted must be supplied by the guesser, and when complete makes the name of a certain place in the U. S. The word is familiar to every man, woman and child in America. So is the name of the GREAT CITY WHERE THE WORLD'S FAIR is to be held in 1893. We will give, on or before December 31st, 1892, a Beautiful Solid Gold Stem-Winding Watch Free (Ladies' or Gents' sizes) to every person from whom we receive 25c in silver or 30c in P. O. stamps for a vital of Dr. Hobb's Little Vegetable Pills and sends us the correct answer to the above puzzle. All answers must come to us through the regular mails, and no answer will be received later than December 31st, 1892. We will also give, in addition to the Watch named, to the first person from whom we receive the correct answer after this advertisement appears, \$100.00 in Gold; to the second \$75 in Gold; to the third \$50 in Gold; to the fourth \$25 in Gold, and to the next ten (should there be so many correct answers) a Genuine Diamond Ring. Recollect every person from whom we will give \$100 in Gold to the next to the last \$75 in Gold; to the next \$50 in Gold; to the next \$25 in Gold, and to the next ten (should there be so many correct answers) a Genuine Diamond Ring. Recollect every person from whom we receive the correct answer to this puzzle according to above, will be entitled to a Watch in any event. The correct answer to this Puzzle has been sent in an envelope and deposited in the vaults of the Royal Safety Deposit and Trust Co., Chicago, which will be opened in the presence of witnesses on December 31st, 1892. Each answer will be numbered in regular order when received, which will be acted upon in the order of its number and every present will be sent the very day the answer is ascertained to be correct, all shipping charges prepaid. REMEMBER, you pay nothing for the presents as they are absolutely GIVEN AWAY to introduce and advertise Dr. Hobb's Celebrated Pills. Pills sent to any address by mail. Agents wanted. Agents pay for the pills after they sell them. As to our reliability you can write to any bank or business house in Chicago. In the past few months we have given away several thousand dollars in Prizes. Immediately after December 31st a printed list giving the names and addresses of the successful contestants will be mailed to each one.

Address HOBBS MEDICINE CO., Cor. Dearborn and Harrison Streets, Chicago, Ill.



Under this head are published every month the best original short stories received under the following prize offer and the writers of which have complied with the conditions here named.

Only regular subscribers may compete for the prizes. All contributions must bear the writer's full name and address; must be written on one side of the paper only and be mailed in a sealed envelope, duly stamped, to EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB, care of COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

All stories must be original and contributors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—of adventure, love, war, peace, of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than 1200 or less than 800 words. No manuscript will be returned unless an addressed and stamped envelope is enclosed.

The writer of the best original story will receive \$20 cash; of the second best, \$15 cash; of the third best, \$10 cash and of the fourth best, \$5 cash.

The prize winners for November are:

Clara I. Clinean, \$20. Frank E. Havens, \$10. Granville Sharpe, \$15. Rosa F. Toller, \$5.

NOTE:—By an oversight our October issue contained the announcement that a prize had been awarded to the author of the story published in that issue entitled "High Priced Music." This story was not original, a similar story, with precisely the same plot, having appeared in a Pacific Coast paper some years ago. Our announced prize was therefore withheld. Contributors will please bear in mind that everything published under this head must be strictly original.

A FORTUNE IN HIS EAR.

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HO is he?"

"Don't know. Sort of a homeless chap, I guess," replied the man who sat on the cracker barrel.

"Know his name?" asked the first speaker, who lounged against the counter.

"No."

The subject of these remarks heard every word, though the speakers had not intended that he should. The grocery store at Pine Fork, a small Connecticut town, included the railway station as well. This was separated from the store by a low iron fence, with a gate. Back of this was the ticket office, and beside that a young man with very red hair was sending some messages over the wire. The sharp clickety-click of the instrument mingled with the sound of falling rain without, and storm-tossed trees beating the roof.

In the section of the room known as the railway station, sat a man, his wet boots steaming before the stove, his head sunk forward on his breast. His face was dejected and dispirited, his clothing decently shabby. He had come East, after a long sojourn in California, to search for his relatives, whom he had not seen in twenty-five years. In this he had been unsuccessful, just as he had been about everything he had ever undertaken in his life.

From a boy he had been of a restless, roving disposition, and the only time he had ever applied himself closely to any business was when he had learned telegraphy, as a lad of eighteen.

"It is a good plan to learn something, my son," his mother had said. "It may be the making of you sometime—who knows?"

But after saving up two hundred dollars of his earnings as a telegraph operator, he went to California, drawn thither by the gold fever which was still raging in that country. Half of his money he had given before starting to his brother—who was a studious boy—in order that he might finish his studies in a scientific school. He himself was confident that he would soon return with a fortune.

But the coveted fortune eluded him like a will-o'-the-wisp. Twenty years of continual discouragement had finally worn away his last hope. He had long since ceased to write home. Now, at forty, looking fifty, he had come across the continent, to his native town in Connecticut, where he was told that his mother had been dead ten years, and that his brother had gone West somewhere—no one knew where.

When John Westover heard this, he knew for the first time how dear his home ties had really been to him during the long years of absence and silence. He wandered about from town to town through the East, trying to gather some news of his brother, but none came. Now he had finally given up that project, and had that evening bought a ticket for Boston, where he hoped to find employment as a telegraph operator.

The train for the East was expected in a few moments. Meanwhile John Westover's trained, though long unaccustomed, ears caught the clickety-click of the telegraph machine in the room, for he was wondering whether he could readily take up his old business again. To test his own ability, he began reading the message which was then going over the wire. With his head bent forward, he listened to the quick, metallic sounds:

"C-A-L-E-B!"

Caleb! It was his brother's name, and it sounded

dear to him. With a moisture creeping over his eyes, he continued to follow the message:

"W-E-S-T-O-V-E-R!"

Then the loungers in the grocery store saw a strange thing happen. The weary, dejected figure in the station suddenly sprang to its feet, clinched its hands, every muscle grew tense, and the eyes were like coals of fire. It was so quickly done, and yet it was as though another man had taken the place of the stranger by the stove—a man with courage, hope, life, action! In the brief moment that he stood there, with the rapid look of one who sees a vision, and the listening attitude of one who catches far off strains of music, they all noticed what a fine forehead he had, and the noble outlines of his figure. Then he fell back in his seat with a dazed look.

At the same instant the whistle of the down train was heard. The glare of the headlight was visible through the small-paned, curtainless windows. The man by the stove caught up his travelling bag and went toward the door. The station agent thought it best to interfere.

"That's not your train—that's the train going west," he said, dashing out in the rain after the would-be passenger. "Crazy as a loon!" he remarked, reappearing a moment later, flicking the rain off from his coat collar. "Bought a ticket for Boston and has taken a train going west in spite of all I could do. He's way off!"

"I thought he looked it," observed the man on the cracker barrel, in a gratified tone. He was the kindest-hearted man in the world, but life at Pine Fork was slow, and he would have been more than human not to have been gratified at a little adventure which served to break up its monotony.

Meanwhile, the object of their remarks had indeed gone westward, and he did not stop until he reached a populous town in Colorado. There he inquired for Caleb Westover, and was readily directed to his house. But when the fine mansion with its elegant grounds, which formed his brother's residence, came to his view, he leaned weakly up against a fence, and said to himself:

"Now, John Westover, you might just as well have gone to Boston as to have come here. He'll never be glad to see a dead failure like you in this world. But you've got here, and now you might as well take a look at him for old times' sake."

Ascending the steps he rang the bell, and was shown into a reception room, where a few moments later he was joined by a fine looking man apparently over forty, who said, in a kindly tone, while he glanced at his visitor:

"Well sir! What can I do for you?"

"Nothing!" said John Westover, rather absently, for he was trying to trace in that prosperous, easy-going gentleman, resemblance to his pale, studious brother of twenty years ago. Then suddenly he said, brokenly:

"Caleb!"

"John—why John!" and the brothers fell into each other's arms.

"How did you happen upon me?" said Caleb, at last. "Why, it all came through my learning telegraphy, you know mother said it 'would be the making of me. In other words, while waiting at a railroad station I overheard a telegram addressed to you from Pine Fork—something about the sale of some timber land."

"Oh yes—some that belonged to mother, and I sold it last week through an agent. But what are you doing?"

"Nothing—I am a failure!"

"You are nothing of the kind—you have come into a fortune. You remember that hundred dollars you gave me years ago? Well, it just put me through the scientific school, and after awhile I came West as civil engineer. While here I discovered a silver mine in Arizona which is simply inexhaustible. I've been wanting a superintendent I could trust for some time you're just the one. I'll give you half interest in the mine? What do you say?"

"But," began John, in bewilderment.

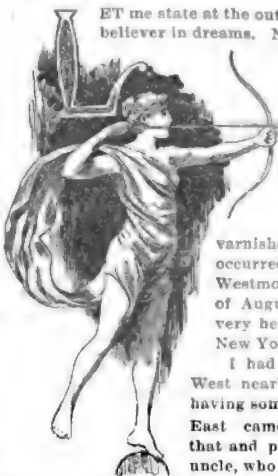
"No buts about it, John. It's only fair. Once you gave me half you had, now I share half I have with you. Isn't that just? And then, too, my daughter is to be married on Thanksgiving Eve, and you are in time to throw rice and old shoes at her. Eh?"

And John Westover realized that at last success had come to him, suddenly, unexpectedly, all in a moment of time—a fortune in his ear!

CLARA I. CLINEAN.

A GODDESS IN A FOG.

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LET me state at the outset that I am not a believer in dreams. Neither is the story

I am to tell one

of by-gone years

after the imagi-

nation has had

time to weave a

romance over the

facts in the

case. I am deal-

ing in plain, un-

varnished truths, which

occurred to me, John

Westmore, on the evening

of August 9, 1892, in the

very heart of the city of

New York.

I had been living in the

West nearly ten years, and

having some business in the

East came on, partly for

that and partly to visit my

uncle, who with his family,

had been abroad all summer, but who was due in New York several days before I left Denver.

Upon arriving at his handsome residence on Madison avenue, however, I was surprised to learn that he and his family were in quarantine on the lower bay, in common with the other passengers in one of the fated steamers which had come into port bearing that warning emblem—a yellow flag. In other words, he had embarked in a steamer whose steerage passengers had been stricken with cholera!

I was expected, however, by the old family servant who had been left in charge of the house, and he spared no pains to make me comfortable. He catered to my appetite as though he were serving a din-

ner party, and brought out of the depths of the cellar a bottle of wine twice as old as myself, after which, placing a box of cigars in reach, he left me to my after-dinner reflections.

The library was in front of the house, up one flight, and looked out upon the broad, well lighted avenue. Seating myself in a comfortable arm chair that stood in a large open bay window, I lit a cigar and watched the blue smoke rising above my head in fantastic shapes. I felt a bit dull and gruesome. In all that mighty city, teeming with life, I knew no one. Why had I not kept up my acquaintance with Jack Armitage, my college chum at Princeton? And Jack's sister, too—what a charming visit I had one vacation at Jack's home. Daisy was there then, a mere slip of a school girl, full of mischief, withal, but giving promise of a fine woman. I had not thought of her before for years. Why had I buried myself so completely in business that I had time for nothing else? What had the world given me in exchange for my soul? What—

I was not aware I was dozing until my cigar dropped and stung my hand with its scorching fire. I started and opened my eyes. There was a chill in the air and it had grown quite dark. A dense white fog had settled over everything—the street and adjoining houses—all were swallowed up. The raw mist was in my eyes, my throat, my clothing. I breathed it, tasted it, was half suffocated with it. Evidently I had slept longer than I had first supposed.

My head was lying against the back of the chair. Looking straight up my eyes fell upon what would have been sky but for the fog. Right there, penetrating the mist with a halo of light, shining like burnished gold, I discerned the half nude, slightly draped figure of a woman! I started with suspended breath. My heart beat quickly. Who or what was she? She floated or hovered with marvelous ease in that point in the sky, the superb gold-figure shining through the mist like a sinking sun half concealed by thin white clouds.

Was I dreaming?

I sprang to my feet, paced up and down the room several times, then again approached the window and looked up. Had I indeed dreamed it? No, she was there. I thought of the legend of Venus rising from the sea, but this angelic being was too grandly proportioned for the goddess of beauty and of love. She was august. She might be better likened to some Spartan woman of old, who shared with her husband the dangers of war. Did I not, indeed, see a glimpse of a bow and arrows in her outstretched hand? Or was she beckoning?

I felt for a moment as though my senses were leaving me. Why should this regal being appear to me? I must find out if my senses were serving me true and false. Instinctively I seized my hat and left the house.

The whole city was shrouded in fog. I wandered aimlessly down the avenue, finally coming to a huge building which occupied an entire block and into the several entrances of which throngs of people were disappearing. I followed the crowd, and presently found myself in a vast amphitheatre, in the center of which a bicycle race was in progress. Tier after tier of faces looked down at the eager riders, and now and then a low thrum of applause half drowned the orchestra. I, too, became interested for a few minutes, then I became restless. The golden woman seemed to beckon me on. I mounted stairs and came to the entrance to a theatre. This might amuse me. I soon became one of the audience.

It was an opera, and I watched the ballet dancers for awhile in a reasonable mood. I fancied I would forget the strange sight which had so confused me. Suddenly I rose, impelled again by some feeling I cannot describe, and began to ascend the stairs again. Flight after flight were ascended, until a welcome rush of cool air came toward me, and I found myself upon a roof garden. The clear sky was above me gleaming with stars—below lay the fog like a mantle.

"Why Mr. Westmore, can it be possible? How do you do?"

The voice was familiar, so was the face of the elderly gentleman to whom it belonged. As I shook hands with him I recognized him as Jack Armitage's father.

"We have just been speaking of you, Jack and I," went on the old gentleman. "Yes, Jack is here, somewhere, and so is my daughter. Daisy you remember Mr. Westmore do you not? I wonder where Jack went. He was saying a moment ago that he would like to hear from you, but had lost your address!"

At Mr. Armitage's side stood a tall graceful woman, with a sweet strong face, whom I could hardly recognize at first as the mischievous girl of ten years before. "I was agreed that we should find Jack while Mr. Armitage, who suffered with slight lameness, awaited us there. I managed things so skillfully

(Nutshell Stories concluded on page 13.)

IS THIS WHAT AILS YOU?

Do you feel generally miserable, or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical, among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, listlessness, weakness, dizziness, feelings of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "congestion" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor sleep, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and aching pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood, cold feet, pain and oppression in chest and back, pain in the joints, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning, and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen?

If you have any or all of these symptoms, send 40 cents to me, and I will send you, postpaid, some simple and harmless powders, pleasant to take and easy directions, which, if you follow, will positively and effectually cure you in from one to three weeks' time, no matter how bad you may be. Few have as infallible a cure as this. More than 1, and fewer still at my age (53) are in more perfect health than I am now. The same means will cure you.

Geo. N. STODDARD, Druggist, Buffalo, N. Y.

\$3.98 HUNTING CASE FREE

A fine 14k gold plated watch to every reader of this paper. Cut this out and send it to us with your full name and address, and we will send you one of these elegant, richly jeweled timepieces, guaranteed by express for examination, and if you think it is equal in appearance to any \$25.00 gold watch, pay our sample price, \$3.98, and it is yours. We send with the watch a guarantee that you can return it at any time within one year if not satisfactory, and if you sell or cause the sale of six we will give you one Free. Write at once as we shall send out samples for sixty days only.

THE NATIONAL MFG & IMPORTING CO.,
334 Dearborn Street,
CHICAGO, ILL.

\$5 to \$15 per day, at home, selling LIGHTNING PLATER
and painting jewelry, watches, tableware, etc. Plates the finest of jewelry good as new, on all kinds of metal with gold, silver or nickel. No experience. No capital. Every house has goods needing plating. Wholesale to agents \$5. Write for circulars. H. E. DELNO & Co., Columbus, O.

SILK REMNANTS for CRAZY PATCH, large pkgs. pretty pieces 10c; 25 skeins REM. \$1.50; 30c; Box: URLINE 25c; CRAZY STITCHES with order. LADIES' ART CO., B. 334 ST. LOUIS.

PERFECTION Loose bottoms. Cakes removed without CAKE breaking. Agents wanted everywhere. Set by mail, 30c. RICHARDSON MFG. CO., C St., Bath, N. Y. **TINS.**

A BEAUTIFUL CRAZY quilt of 500 sq. in. made with pkg. of 60 splendid silk pos., asstd. bright colors, 25c.; 5 pks. \$1. Agents Wanted. Lemarie's Silk Mills, Little Ferry, N. J.

BEST PAYING THING for Agents is our PHOTOGRAPH FAMILY RECOF. PICTURE. We give you liberal terms. Address Dept. Z. C. P. O'RY & CO., 41 to 45 Jefferson St., Chicago.

FREE Treatise to Sufferers from Rupture, Rheumatism and Piles, which will lead to a prompt, permanent, and cheap Cure, without surgery and without pain. Address D. LUTZ, Box 619, Somerville, New Jersey.

YOUNG MAN Wanted in every town to paint SIGNS. No experience required. Our patterns do the work. \$1. an hour. 127 Sand 10c. for Patterns and full particulars. MARTIN & CO., Box E Adams, N.Y.

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THE NUTSHELL STORY CLUB

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12.)

that it was some minutes before we found him, and in the meantime revived my acquaintance with his sister as best I could.

"Have you seen Diana?" she asked. "Jack told papa and me that we must see her, so we came with him this evening. Is she not a noble work of art?"

I followed the direction of her gaze, and there, ye Gods! crowned with electric light, and grasping a bow and arrows, I saw the golden woman! The mystery was solved. The famous statue over-looking Madison Square garden, was she who had appeared to me above the fog in all her yellow splendor, and by the witchery of her gaze had drawn me thither—where the witchery of another pair of eyes was making me a willing captive for life!

Diana's reign was over, but I still believe in her power, notwithstanding that certain residents of the World's Fair city have refused since then, to accept my golden goddess within their sacred precincts, on account of the scantiness of her attire!

What else could it have been but a spell from her, that guided me that evening to my old college chum, and to the dearest and most noble woman I have ever known?

GRANVILLE SHARPE.

THE MYSTERIOUS VISITOR.

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N 1875 there lived in Central Iowa a family named Robinson, consisting of father, mother and two boys aged respectively nine and twelve years.

In October Mr. Robinson received notice that his brother, living some thirty miles distant, was very ill and wanted to see him; and he left home expecting to be away at least a week.

The boys were old enough to take care of the stock, Mrs. Robinson was a courageous woman, and he had no reason to feel anxious for his family during his absence.

He reached his brother's home, and found him dangerously ill, but it was believed the crisis was passed and that he was mending. Mr. Robinson watched with his brother on the night after his arrival.

As he sat near the sick man's bed, a little, old woman suddenly entered the room. Mr. Robinson bowed to her, and while surprised at her presence, he supposed it was some neighbor who had come in.

"My brother is much better," said Mr. Robinson in a low voice.

"You must go home," answered the old woman briefly.

"Who—me?"

"Yes."

"But I came to take care of my brother."

"You must be home by 10 o'clock to-morrow night," said the old woman.

"What for?"

She beckoned him away from the bed and whispered:

"To-morrow night, three men will enter your house to rob and murder; you must go home."

"How do you know?" he asked.

"They poisoned your dog to-night, and they are now sleeping in your barn. To-morrow night there will be three of them. You must go."

"Charles, who is that woman?" asked the sick man, and Robinson turned to the bed to find his brother awake.

"I do not know," he answered.

He called his brother's wife, but she knew no such person, and said that the windows and doors were locked, so that the stranger must still be in the house.

A thorough search was made but no trace of her presence could be found.

The sick man said he had heard what she said, and insisted that his brother should go home as soon as possible.

At noon the next day Mr. Robinson started for home. He had to wait at a junction for several hours so that he could not reach home until ten o'clock in the evening.

Added to his fears for the safety of his family was the thought of his brother, who was still very ill. Mr. Robinson could not hesitate in starting for home with no better reason than the appearance of this strange old woman with her startling message.

When he reached his home station he told his story to the sheriff, who after some persuasion decided to take six well-armed men and go home with him.

As they approached the house they were just in time to see two masked men clambering in at a kitchen window, while the third was on guard outside.

The robbers were speedily captured, and then several points corroborated of the old woman's story were discovered.

The dog had died suddenly, with every evidence of having been poisoned. Two tramps had been noticed hanging about the place the day before, and two of the men were identified as the fellows.

After the excitement of the capture was over, Mr. Robinson began to feel anxious about his brother; but that evening the little old woman again appeared, and sitting down beside him at the fireplace said:

"Your brother is much better, he will recover. You need give yourself no uneasiness about him."

"Who was that woman?" questioned Mrs. Robinson, "and how did she know about Frank?"

Her husband then told her of the warning he had received. Several days later, this time accompanied

by his entire family, Mr. Robinson again visited his brother and found him much better. The story of the visits of the little old woman were discussed but could not be explained.

The brothers both vouch for the truth of this story, and although many years have passed the strange visitor has never reappeared, and her mysterious visits remain unexplained.

FRANK E. HAVENS.

The Mystery of the Chest.

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HAT'S that noise, Ellen? It's an unearthly sound."

"Oh, it's the wind or something," answered Ellen Burt carelessly, but sent an apprehensive look over her shoulder in the direction of the noise.

The two Burt girls had returned from college a few weeks before the night of this story, and were now alone in the house. Their parents, after much persuasion, had consented to go to a neighboring town to visit a friend and remain for the night.

They felt but little uneasiness in leaving the girls alone, as both Ellen and Cora were self-reliant young women, well used to depending upon themselves.

Besides this the house was situated in a retired place where tramps seldom came and where there was little to fear.

The girls were alone in the house, their only servant, Black Jane, slept in a log cottage some distance from the old farm house.

The girls passed the afternoon pleasantly, and when the darkness came on locked up the house and went to their own room.

The silver and other valuables were kept in a closet in their mother's room, which communicated with theirs, and could not be reached otherwise without going through a long entry. The door opening into the entry they carefully bolted on the inside.

As the two girls entered their own room, Cora, the younger, was startled by a rustling sound.

They looked carefully around the room, examined the closets, and then deciding that it must be a mouse, began preparations for the night.

It was about midnight when Cora awakened; as she opened her eyes something that seemed like a shadow passed between her and the light. She sprang up without disturbing her sister and looked about the room but saw nothing.

She drew up the curtain and looked out on the lawn. Perfect quiet reigned everywhere, and finding nothing to verify her fears she returned to bed.

For some little time she lay awake watching a ray of light that drifted, shadowlike, along the wall.

Presently she saw the lid of an old chest that stood at one side of the room, slowly rise, and two threatening eyes framed in a mass of coarse hair, peered out.

Half-paralyzed with fear, the girl lay watching. In a moment the lid of the chest lifted.

With a wild cry Cora sprang from the bed and rushing toward the chest forced down the lid with all her strength.

"Quick, Ellen, quick," she shouted, and in a moment her sister was beside her.

"For heavens sake Cora, what is it?"

"A thief—a murderer—hold hard, Ellen, or we shall be killed."

The occupant struggled violently so that the stout old chest quivered, and one hinge gave way. But the girls succeeded in keeping the lid down, while their shrieks seemed to half confuse their captive.

The nearest neighbor was half a mile away. There was no hope that Jane would hear them and come to their rescue. They were alone, and if the man should escape from the chest there was little doubt but that he would murder them both, thought Cora, as she held the lid down resolutely.

"It's funny he don't swear or say anything," said Ellen, after their captive had apparently ceased his struggles.

A low murmur like a subdued growl came in answer.

All night long the two girls kept their station on the chest, and when Jane came with their hot water she found them pallid and trembling.

"What you a doin' to that chest. I s'pect you've shut down that lid so tight you've 'bout killed my dawg. I calculated on keepin' him there 'till mornin' 'bout any rumpus. Git up right off'n there." And Black Jane lifted the lid the two girls had held down with all their might, and there lay a fair sized Newfoundland pup. He was so nearly stifled that it was some time before he recovered his usual friskiness.

"My b'r'r Sam brung him when you was out," explained Black Jane "an' I fixed him all up in the chest, with the lid open just so he could breathe. Sam said he was a quiet critter an' wouldn't make no noise. An' I calculated on surprisin' you wif him. An' you chillun have 'bout killed him," and Jane tugged the almost lifeless body of her pet out of the room.

The two girls looked at each other in silence. At last with a long sigh of relief, Cora said:

"Well, I guess Jane did surprise us after all."

ROSA F. TOLLER.

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9 YEARS OF AGONY. After being under the doctor's care nearly nine years and receiving little benefit I tried Oxien. It has done wonders for me. One and a half boxes brought me good health and others here are receiving the same benefits from it. I enclose \$18.00 for another lot of this Wonderful Food and Plasters. Mrs. Wm. BANTZ, Howe, Neb.

DOCTORS FAILED. I was so feeble and miserable, but Oxien made a new man of me. It also enabled me to abandon the tobacco habit without the least inconvenience. W. B. HULL, McCool, Miss.

EXPECTED TO DIE. I was not expected to live through the terrible malarial pains in my head, back and chest. The use of the Oxien made me feel like a new man and I gained 25 pounds. FRANK E. WARBURTON, Pawtucket, R.I.

Happenings Here, There and Yonder.

Forty-seven thousand girls are going to college this year.

Eighty-five per cent of people who are lame are affected on the left side.

During the time of George I of England the wedding ring was worn on the thumb.

There are reputed to be 119,000,000 of the big old copper pennies still in circulation.

Several towns in Massachusetts furnish free transportation for children to and from school.

Among London cab drivers there are a dozen bankrupt land-owners, one baronet, and several ex-military officers.

Two young women swam across the Thames River, from Croton to Bragaws ways. They made the trip in just sixteen minutes.

A pest of frogs recently came upon the town of Little Falls, Minn. For several days the streets and sidewalks were covered with them.

Four children were burned to death at Missouri Valley, Iowa, as the result of their mother's attempting to refill a lighted gasoline stove.

A maple tree in Brunswick, Maine, shed all its leaves in July. In August the tree again put forth new leaves and was soon as thrifty as ever.

A man in Yarmouth, Maine, has a private volcano. There is a rocky hill on his farm that smokes and shakes and emits oil and gas. It awaits scientific investigation.

There is still burning in India a sacred fire that was lighted by the Parsees twelve centuries ago. The fire is fed with sandal and other fragrant woods, and replenished five times a day.

The largest electric search light in the world is now in progress of manufacture. It will be used at the top of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor, and will be visible for 100 miles out at sea.

A mayor of a city in Pennsylvania sentenced two men, on the charge of drunkenness, to one hour in church. They were escorted by two policemen, and after hearing the sermon they signed the pledge.

Five Lapland reindeer in charge of a native driver, are on their way to this country. They are the property of Mr. Charles Gilliland of Ohio, and will be put in training for a trial of speed against horses.

Isaac P. Monfort, an old gentleman who lives in Macomb, Ill., has the mare, Nell, that he drove all the way to Philadelphia in 1876 and he proposes driving her in the procession at the dedication ceremonies at the World's Fair in Chicago.

An ostrich ten feet high and large in proportion has just walked six hundred miles from Central Asia to Tierra Leone. This gigantic bird is the largest and finest ever known, and is a present to Queen Victoria from Aliimay Samaden, the great Moham-medan Chief.

A singular controversy over the naming of a child was settled in Providence, R. I., a short time ago. Two certificates were filed with the Registrar, one by the father and another by the mother. The father consulted a lawyer, who proved to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor that the father had the prior right.

A violent wind took control of a heavy freight train on the New Jersey Central Railroad. The engineer and brakeman, thinking the train was beyond help, jumped from their posts. The fireman, John Conners, put on brakes and brought the train to a standstill after a six miles run.

The peasants near Berlin were greatly frightened recently at the sight of a balloon passing over. The people in the fields fell on their knees, groaning, "The cholera is coming." When the aeronauts landed near the village the people fled to their houses shouting that they had seen death with his scythe in his ear.

A process has been devised by which potatoes can be preserved. The potatoes ground, exposed to pressure to extract the moisture as far as possible, and then partially cooked. The substance so obtained makes good food for cattle. With boiling water added it makes a good soup. Or it can be mixed with flour to make bread.

A young lady in Cumberland, Mo., the other day shortened a corset string by burning it in two. The end smoldered and while she was in the street it was discovered that her underclothing was on fire. She managed to get to the house of a friend where she removed the burning clothing before she was seriously hurt herself.

Someone has figured out that the census shows there must of necessity be 4,720 bachelors out of every 100,000 men. In 1890 there were 5 States and territories in which the male population was more than twice the number of the female. The District of Columbia and Massachusetts have ten per cent more women than men.

In France recently a detachment of soldiers were thrown violently to the ground by a stroke of lightning. Most of them were able to rise again at once; but four were prostrated and one was killed. The men reported that they felt what seemed like a violent blow upon the back of the neck or on the legs and a sensation of burning.

Probably the greatest display of fireworks ever known was that on the Brooklyn Bridge on the evening of October 10th. It was seen by thousands from boats on the river or from the roofs of high buildings. One piece represented a cataract of fire as wide as the bridge is long. The whole display occupied two hours beginning at half past eight.

Near Schuylkill, Pa., the well-preserved body of a soldier of the Revolutionary Army was unearthed. The remains were dressed in the old Continental uniform, wrapped in a blanket and covered with successive layers of tar-cloth. The whole was in a remarkable state of preservation. The warrior was provided with side arms and a flint-lock musket, and these also were in good condition.

Lightning played a queer freak the other night at the headquarters of a dog club on Long Island. The dogs were confined in enclosures made of wire. The chains ran loosely on the wire, so that they could move freely without escaping. The lightning struck the wire, and around, and through their chains to the dogs. Nearly twenty of them were killed. Their appearance did not indicate that they had suffered any.

For three days, beginning Oct. 10th, New York city gave itself up to holiday making to properly celebrate the four hundredth anniversary of the landing of Columbus. The city was profusely and handsomely decorated. The streets were crowded all the time with the citizens and visitors. There were four great processions and the sidewalks and the stands on the line of march were crowded. There were said to be over seven hundred thousand visitors in the city. Owing to the unfortunate illness of Mrs. Harrison the President was unable to attend the celebration.

Investigation proves that teas are not adulterated to so great an extent as formerly. Chicory is used as an adulterant of coffee, as well as wheat, rye, corn, peas and acorns. Manufacturers claim that an addition of thirty per cent of these "peas" to genuine coffee will make an equal drink to the straight coffee. Another method of adulterating coffee is to treat it for the manufacture of coffee extract, after which the grains are roasted a second time, with the

addition of a little sugar to cover the berries with a deceptive glazing.

A European newspaper gives this startling account of an elephant's sagacity. This elephant was a circus performer, and was advertised to play the piano splendidly. He went three times round the ring, saluting to the audience, and was then led to the piano. He touched the keyboard, and trembling with fear and rage rushed out of the arena. The manager explained to the audience that the elephant had recognized in the keyboard of the piano a portion of the tusks of his long-lost mother, who had fallen a prey to ivory-hunters. This story does not require any editorial comment.

A farmer living in the Catskills has been obliged to give up bee-keeping on account of the eccentricities of some of the members of his hives. He owns five horses, two of which are powerful and valuable farm horses. Toward one of these the bees showed great antagonism and dislike, stinging him severely whenever he was driven into the yard, though they never molested any of the other horses or animals on the place. Finding that it was necessary to either sell his horse or give up his bees, the farmer finally concluded to do the latter, and he now drives his horse in peace and buys his honey.

William Thompson, City Assessor of Camden, N. J., had a narrow escape from death a short time ago. One Saturday he had occasion to seek a document in the great air-tight, fire-proof vault in the City Hall. The janitor's assistant, ignorant of the fact that Mr. Thompson had entered the safe, closed and locked the door without seeing the occupant. Mr. Thompson shouted but his voice did not reach beyond the iron walls of his cage. Fortunately Thompson was wanted punctually elsewhere. He had been known to enter the clerk's office, and was last seen there. This fact led to the suspicion that he might be in the vault. When taken out he was unconscious and nearly suffocated.

Colorado City began boring for water about six years ago. The drill went down 1,200 feet. It didn't strike good drinking water, but it struck petroleum, eighty feet of rock salt, and other things. After a while somebody thought of making use of the salt. The hole was bored deeper. It struck fresh water. A pump was put down. A windmill was erected above the pump. The wind raised the salt water, which was run into a reservoir. The sun did the rest. Colorado City had salt. Other wells have been bored, windmills have been erected in rows until Don Quixote might think he saw a whole army defying him. Manual labor is necessary to take up the salt and barrel it, that is all. Colorado City sends out several hundred carloads each month.

INSTANTANEOUS PHOTOGRAPHS.

A new style trick camera given away. Ask a friend to look in camera and you will take his picture, withdraw the slide and there is where the joke comes in by using this universal fun maker; it is ingeniously constructed, has celluloid slide with real camera appearance, and sells by the thousands. Morse & Co., Augusta, Maine, have hundreds of new articles in 1893 Catalogue and will send this great Photograph free if you enclose 3c. for postage. You are then told how to obtain many new novelties and useful presents without costing you a cent.

THE MYSTIC CASTLE.

MY DEAR MYSTIC FRIENDS:
To have a pleasant chat over puzzle affairs, to study and solve the large batch of "Mysteries," which Oldcastle has brought with him this month, and to extend a hearty invitation to all to join us in our pleasant and instructive pastime of composing and solving puzzles, are we, the members of the "Mystic Band," gathered together. Let many accept this invitation, and every member endeavor to interest one or more friends so as to swell our numbers and increase enthusiasm in this direction. The more the merrier. Send original puzzles for publication, also solutions to the puzzles below to Oldcastle, Comfort, Utica, N. Y., and your name will be entered upon the roll of the Mystic Band. If you cannot solve all the puzzles, solve what you can and due credit will be given.

The Fisherman's Outfit offered as a prize, for the first correct solutions to August's Mysteries, is awarded to Ypsie, hers being the only correct list received. The puzzles, though few in number were very difficult.

We want at least one hundred lists of solutions to the large assortment of puzzles presented this month. Let all our friends respond and increase the number three-fold.

Lomax, Leander and Lalla Rokh:—Thanks for puzzles sent. Come often.

Oldcastle wishes to acknowledge the receipt of the following departments and thank their respective editors, "Tangled Rags," "Materia Mystica," "Intricacies," "Our Mystic Sowers" and "Mystic Links." All are very fine and receive good support.

Perhaps many of the mystic friends have some new content in mind which they would like to suggest for trial in "The Mystic Castle." If so, send them along. A nice prize will be awarded for the best one. We would be glad to hear from many of the older members of our band, who have been silent of late. Rouse ye, mystic knights!

Puzzlers will please observe the following requests. Do not write with lead pencil. Always date your letters and lists of solutions and sign your name every time you write. Devote a separate sheet of paper to each puzzle and write on one side of the paper, only.

The puzzles this time are from some of our best contributors and are very interesting. Let us now turn our attention to them, and try our best to correctly solve each one.

Wishing you all success, I bid you good-bye till we meet again. Your dear old mystic friend,

OLDCASTLE.

SOLUTIONS TO AUGUST'S MYSTERIES.

No. 333. Rams-gate.
No. 334. (General Albert Sidney) Johnston. (Dr. Samuel) Johnson. (Ben) Jonson.

MYSTERIES.

Do. 358. Numerical.

My whole, composed of 17 letters, is the Blessed Thistle.
My 7, 16, 10 is a luminous orb.
My 17, 16, 2, 3 is a luminous body.
My 11, 4, 13, 1, 15 is law.
My 14, 6, 3, 9 is to heal.
My 8, 5, 12 is to put forth.
Providence, R. I., RAY.

No. 361. Double Letter Enigma.

In "musical tones."
In "short ends."
In "loving ones."
In "dear friends."
Whole is a desire of happiness.
Seaton, Oregon, NUISANCE.

No. 362. Inverted Pentagon.

1. A large ship of burden. 3. One who continues.
3. Brought to perfection. 4. An animal whose feet are not apparent. 5. Those of a religious order who

live in convents. 6. One who murmurs. 7. Stupid.
8. A German article. 9. In "Oldcastle,"

White mouse, N. J., CALO.

No. 363. Oblique Diamond.

1. A letter. 2. To cover the top. 3. Narrow roads.
4. Mischief artfully performed. 5. Whimsical. 6. An optic glass (rare). 7. A thin kind of satin. 8. Small copper coin used in the East Indies. 9. A pert townsman. 10. A letter.

Ardmore, Pa., REMARDO.

No. 364. Charade.

Old, wrinkled and poor,
She sits at her door,
And prime is all she can do;
As she sits in the sun,
When her labor is done,
Total she eats, thankfully too.
Washington D. C., WALDEMAR.

No. 365. Concealed Anagram.

The fire does not give out much heat, I'm cold. The old mica of the stove is broken. Come, Thilda, with the metallic hod. Now stir the dim coal. When the fire burns well, we will have some hot medical preparation. O calm Edith, admit Chloe to me; a child of old Lamech. Do it quickly and then prepare the clam diet. Oh, yes, bring the turkey too, we will eat him cold. Now I am clothed and fed, and walking in the calm tide. Oh! here comes the cold! Head 'im; guide him to the cot; lead him into the yard; harness and load him etc.

Hopkinsville, Ky., DELIAN.

Nos. 366-7. Star.

(1) 1. A letter. 2. Two-fifths of stove. 3. Pertaining to the Puritans. 4. Introduces. 5. A river of France. 6. European city. 7. To fall back. 8. Thus. 9. A letter.

New Castle, Ohio, FRANK.

No. 368. Transposition.

Bait your hook,
Throw out your line,
And catch a fish for me.
Behold the fish,
And then transpose
A pivot you will see.
Rockport, Me., F. I. DONT.

No. 369. Crossword.

We are found with "Jennie Mowry"
And "Always" found with "Ray,"
Also with "Marion Stevens"
And in "R. O. Chester's lay."
"Old Pete" often thinks of us,
And so does "Hercules";
Then comes "Bennie Factor"
Along with "Remardo's D's."
"Aspiro" sends along the "flats"—
All contribute their best,
To complete now before you
In our ever welcome guest.
Grafton, Ill., LOMAX.

Nos. 370-1. Diamond.

(1) 1. A letter. 2. A beating. 3. Small river fishes. 4. To loathe. 5. A species of coarse grass. 6. A genus of lizards. 7. Mischievous. 8. Long since. 9. Petrified. 10. A happy conception. 11. A letter.

Poultney, Vt., GUARDIANER.

Nos. 372-4. Hexagon.

(1) 1. A small room. 2. Appropriation. 3. Certain animals. 4. Gold foil. 5. A torn rag. 6. A vapor. 7. Weapons.

Docorah, Iowa, MERLIN.

No. 375. Inverted Pyramid.

Across. 1. Anime. 2. Appoints. 3. A wealthy man. 4. A kind of dry goods with a corded surface. 5. A letter.

Down. 1. A letter. 2. A Turkish arrow. 3. A spore-case. 4. To intrust. 5. Disorder. 6. At the top. 7. Rebel (abbr.). 8. A verb. 9. A letter.

Newport, N. Y., ILEX.

PRIZES FOR SOLUTIONS.

For the first three complete or largest lists of solutions to this month's "Mysteries," the following prizes will be awarded:—1. Mammoth Stamping Outfit. 2. A year's subscription to COMFORT. 3. Ten complete novels.

Specials.—Two six months subscriptions to COMFORT will be awarded by lot among the rest of the solvers.

Solutions, solvers and prize winners in February "Mystic Castle."

SILK AND SATIN RIBBONS GIVEN AWAY.

We have a special Premium Bargain Offer this month in the way of Ladies' wear. Desiring to get all the yearly subscribers we can to start the New Year with we will give one of our regular packages of Pique and Crown Edge Ribbons of latest and fashionable style shades for only two yearly subscribers to COMFORT at 25c. each. As these packages contain a variety of different lengths from one yard each and upward, for hat and bonnet ties, bows, scarfs, etc., etc. this offer is especially rare at this time, and will only hold good for 30 days. We have a Lace or Hamburg package that we will also give one each of for two yearly subscribers, or if 6 subscribers are obtained at one time we will send all three packages, all charges paid. Address, Publishers of COMFORT, Augusta, Me.

50 DIAMOND RINGS FREE! \$50 CASH TO BE GIVEN AWAY!

The FIRST fifty persons answering this advertisement will receive one of my 18-K. SOLID RING 6-10-12-14-16-18-20-22-24-26-28-30-32-34-36-38-40-42-44-46-48-50-52-54-56-58-60-62-64-66-68-70-72-74-76-78-80-82-84-86-88-90-92-94-96-98-100-102-104-106-108-110-112-114-116-118-120-122-124-126-128-130-132-134-136-138-140-142-144-146-148-150-152-154-156-158-160-162-164-166-168-170-172-174-176-178-180-182-184-186-188-190-192-194-196-198-200-202-204-206-208-210-212-214-216-218-220-222-224-226-228-230-232-234-236-238-240-242-244-246-248-250-252-254-256-258-260-262-264-266-268-270-272-274-276-278-280-282-284-286-288-290-292-294-296-298-300-302-304-306-308-310-312-314-316-318-320-322-324-326-328-330-332-334-336-338-340-342-344-346-348-350-352-354-356-358-360-362-364-366-368-370-372-374-376-378-380-382-384-386-388-390-392-394-396-398-400-402-404-406-408-410-412-414-416-418-420-422-424-426-428-430-432-434-436-438-440-442-444-446-448-450-452-454-456-458-460-462-464-466-468-470-472-474-476-478-480-482-484-486-488-490-492-494-496-498-500-502-504-506-508-510-512-514-516-518-520-522-524-526-528-530-532-534-536-538-540-542-544-546-548-550-552-554-556-558-560-562-564-566-568-570-572-574-576-578-580-582-584-586-588-590-592-594-596-598-600-602-604-606-608-610-612-614-616-618-620-622-624-626-628-630-632-634-636-638-640-642-644-646-648-650-652-654-656-658-660-662-664-666-668-670-672-674-676-678-680-682-684-686-688-690-692-694-696-698-700-702-704-706-708-710-712-714-716-718-720-722-724-726-728-730-732-734-736-738-740-742-744-746-748-750-752-754-756-758-760-762-764-766-768-770-772-774-776-778-780-782-784-786-788-790-792-794-796-798-800-802-804-806-808-810-812-814-816-818-820-822-824-826-828-830-832-834-836-838-840-842-844-846-848-850-852-854-856-858-860-862-864-866-868-870-872-874-876-878-880-882-884-886-888-890-892-894-896-898-900-902-904-906-908-910-912-914-916-918-920-922-924-926-928-930-932-934-936-938-940-942-944-946-948-950-952-954-956-958-960-962-964-966-968-970-972-974-976-978-980-982-984-986-988-990-992-994-996-998-1000-1002-1004-1006-1008-1010-1012-1014-1016-1018-1020-1022-1024-1026-1028-1030-1032-1034-1036-1038-1040-1042-1044-1046-1048-1050-1052-1054-1056-1058-1060-1062-1064-1066-1068-1070-1072-1074-1076-1078-1080-1082-1084-1086-1088-1090-1092-1094-1096-1098-1100-1102-1104-1106-1108-1110-1112-1114-1116-1118-1120-1122-1124-1126-1128-1130-1132-1134-1136-1138-1140-1142-1144-1146-1148-1150-1152-1154-1156-1158-1160-1162-1164-1166-1168-1170-1172-1174-1176-1178-1180-1182-1184-1186-1188-1190-1192-1194-1196-1198-1200-1202-1204-1206-1208-1210-1212-1214-1216-1218-1220-1222-1224-1226-1228-1230-1232-1234-1236-1238-1240-1242-1244-1246-1248-1250-1252-1254-1256-1258-1260-1262-1264-1266-1268-1270-1272-1274-1276-1278-1280-1282-1284-1286-1288-1290-1292-1294-1296-1298-1300-1302-1304-1306-1308-1310-1312-1314-1316-1318-1320-1322-1324-1326-1328-1330-1332-1334-1336-1338-1340-1342-1344-1346-1348-1350-1352-1354-1356-1358-1360-1362-1364-1366-1368-1370-1372-1374-1376-1378-1380-1382-1384-1386-1388-1390-1392-1394-1396-1398-1400-1402-1404-1406-1408-1410-1412-1414-1416-1418-1420-1422-1424-1426-1428-1430-1432-1434-1436-1438-1440-1442-1444-1446-1448-1450-1452-1454-1456-1458-1460-1462-1464-1466-1468-1470-1472-1474-1476-1478-1480-1482-1484-1486-1488-1490-1492-1494-1496-1498-1500-1502-1504-1506-1508-1510-1512-1514-1516-1518-1520-1522-1524-1526-1528-1530-1532-1534-1536-1538-1540-1542-1544-1546-1548-1550-1552-1554-1556-1558-1560-1562-1564-1566-1568-1570-1572-1574-1576-1578-1580-1582-1584-1586-1588-1590-1592-1594-1596-1598-1600-1602-1604-1606-1608-1610-1612-1614-1616-1618-1620-1622-1624-1626-1628-1630-1632-1634-1636-1638-1640-1642-1644-1646-1648-1650-1652-1654-1656-1658-1660-1662-1664-1666-1668-1670-1672-1674-1676-1678-1680-1682-1684-1686-1688-1690-1692-1694-1696-1698-1700-1702-1704-1706-1708-1710-1712-1714-1716-1718-1720-1722-1724-1726-1728-1730-1732-1734-1736-1738-1740-1742-1744-1746-1748-1750-1752-1754-1756-1758-1760-1762-1764-1766-1768-1770-1772-1774-1776-1778-1780-1782-1784-1786-1788-1790-1792-1794-1796-1798-1800-1802-1804-1806-1808-1810-1812-1814-1816-1818-1820-1822-1824-1826-1828-1830-1832-1834-1836-1838-1840-1842-1844-1846-1848-1850-1852-1854-1856-1858-1860-1862-1864-1866-1868-1870-1872-1874-1876-1878-1880-1882-1884-1886-1888-1890-1892-1894-1896-1898-1900-1902-1904-1906-1908-1910-1912-1914-1916-1918-1920-1922-1924-1926-1928-1930-1932-1934-1936-1938-1940-1942-1944-1946-1948-1950-1952-1954-1956-1958-1960-1962-1964-1966-1968-1970-1972-1974-1976-1978-1980-1982-1984-1986-1988-1990-1992-1994-1996-1998-2000-2002-2004-2006-2008-2010-2012-2014-2016-2018-2020-2022-2024-2026-2028-2030-2032-2034-2036-2038-2040-2042-2044-2046-2048-2050-2052-2054-2056-2058-2060-2062-2064-2066-2068-2070-2072-2074-2076-2078-2080-2082-2084-2086-2088-2090-2092-2094-2096-2098-2100-2102-2104-2106-2108-2110-2112-2114-



DEAR COUSINS:

I suppose you will be cooking your Thanksgiving dinners before so very long now, but I have great confidence in your skill as housekeepers, and so shall not give you any recipes for the plum pudding and turkey dressing this year. It has been quite a number of years that we have been meeting together now, and most of you must know my ways pretty well by this time. I like to leave the column entirely in your hands, and let you exchange ideas, while I stand by and learn with the rest. We will hear from a good many this month; and first from the Pine Tree State, where there are some good cooks, as I can personally testify.

EASY MADE CAKE.

1 cup molasses, 1 cup sugar, 1 cup sour milk, 2-3 cup butter, 1 teaspoon soda, spice to taste. Bake 1 hour. Two or 3 eggs improve it, also raisins or a cup of dried apples cut in small pieces and stewed in molasses. The apple should be previously soaked over night.

JOHNNY CAKE.

2-3 corn meal, 1-3 flour, 2-3 sweet milk, 1-3 sour. Mix the meal and flour well together, then stir it into half the milk; beat it well to get the lumps out while it is thick, add the rest of the milk, salt and soda. To the above add as much molasses as you can afford, and some beef suet cut in small pieces, and you will have an old-fashioned easy cake.

O. L. SKILLIN, Presque Isle, Maine.

POTATO CROQUETTES.

3 cups cold mashed potatoes from lumps, 2 eggs beaten to a froth, 1 tablespoon melted butter, salt and pepper to taste; form into cakes, roll in beaten egg, then in cracker crumbs, and fry in hot lard.

It will soon be cold enough to think of making candy, and here is a recipe.

ICE CREAM CANDY.

2 cups cold water, 2 cups white sugar, 2 teaspoons baking powder, piece of butter size of an egg. Boil until it hardens when dropped into cold water, and pull.

COLORADO BLUE BELL.

I am only 13 years old, but perhaps I can tell something that will help some one. For the housekeeper who hasn't any mending board, take an old sheet, double it four times, which leaves it square, four it well, and the dough will not adhere. When you are through, roll it up, and it is ready for next time. For

TABLE MATH.

cut them out of pasteboard, making them in fancy patterns around the edge; make oblong ones for the platters. As pasteboard is plenty, when one is soiled burn it and make others. These prevent heating the table, and save washing doilies. For a

SOFT DISH.

take a little pail such as tea caddies in, bend the cover up instead of down around the edge, punch holes in it and the water from the soup will run through into the pail, which can then be emptied.

C. R. F.

Dear Cousin Ceres:—Will you let me in again with a few recipes? I have visited your department once before; and like it better than any other part of the paper. For what is better than something nice to eat? Here is a recipe for

CREAM TOAST.

Make some dry toast, have a saucepan of milk boiling, into which put quarter pound of butter, stir into this sufficient flour or corn starch (already wet with cold milk) to make it as thick as rich cream. Dip each slice of toast into this. Put into a deep dish and pour the cream over it.

CREAM CODLINO.

Pare and core a score of codling apples; beat them in a mortar with a pint of cream; strain into a dish, and put sugar, bread crumbs and a glass of wine to it. Stir it well.

CIDER CAKE.

1 cup of butter, 2 cups sugar, 3 eggs beaten separately, 3-4 cup of fine, 4 of but flour, 1 teaspoonful (scant) of soda, 1 teaspoonful apple, Mix sugar and spice with flour, then mix in the order given, and bake in 2 shallow pans.

FRUIT TURNOVERS.

Make a crust as for pies and roll 1-4 of an inch thick; cut out with a saucer sized cutter; put the fruit on half of the circle folding the other half over it; wet the inside edges so they will stick together. If the fruit used be thinly sliced apples, sprinkle them with a little sugar and cinnamon; add a small piece of butter and a tablespoonful of water before folding over the crust; but if berries are used flour, sugar and butter should be used. When ready for the oven brush them with the white of an egg. They will require from 20 to 30 minutes to bake. When done dust with powdered sugar.

ELLIN DELAM, Dodge, Walker Co., Texas.

VERSATILE STEW.

12 potatoes cut in halves or quarters, 6 onions, 1 carrot chopped fine, 1 of but flour, 1 lb. parsley, chopped, a little pepper and salt, a pint of water; let all boil till the vegetables are quite done but not broken. Stew the onions before adding the other vegetables.

CRUMB PIES.

Line 4 pie plates with pie crust and fill with this mixture: Mix together 1 cup molasses, 1 cup hot water, 1 teaspoonful soda; divide this in the 4 plates. Then make the crumbs as follows: 4 cups of flour, 1 cup of sugar, nearly a cup of lard; mix well and crumb. Then distribute all in the pie plates. The crumbs will settle into the mixture and some remain on the top.

POTATO FRITTERS.

Boil and peel 6 large potatoes, mash them well and add 4 well beaten eggs, a little cream or milk, chopped parsley (onions if preferred), salt and pepper, and mix the whole together. Raise on the end of a knife about a teaspoonful of this batter and drop it into a pan of boiling lard or butter, when the paste will swell and form a light, round fritter.

SCALLOPED POTATOES.

Slice raw potatoes, then place them in a baking dish, seasoning each layer with salt, pepper, bits of butter and a dust of flour until the dish is nearly full. Fill up with milk. Bake 1 hour until the potatoes are creamy.

Miss L. G. GRAMM, Cordelia, Penn.

COTTAGE PUDDING (Excellent).

Beat together 1 cup sugar and 1 tablespoonful of butter, 2 eggs, 1-2 cup of sweet milk, 1-3 cups flour, 1 teaspoonful of baking powder. Beat with sweetened cream or milk.

GINGER WAFERS.

1 cup molasses; set it on the stove and let it come to a boil. Add 1 tablespoon butter, remove from the stove, add 1-2 teaspoon ginger put in flour until it is harder than pie crust, roll very thin and cut in squares; bake in a moderate oven.

JENNY LIND CAKE.

1 cup sugar, 2 cups flour, 1 egg, 1 cup milk, butter size of a hen's egg, 3 teaspoons baking powder.

TOMATO STEW.

Put 1 tablespoon butter into a skillet; when it sizzles, add a scant half teaspoon flour; when it is slightly browned, put in the tomatoes. A 2 lb. can is sufficient for a family of four. Add 1-2 cup sugar, 1-2 teaspoon salt, and a little pepper.

TO REMOVE INK STAINS FROM TABLE LINEN. Take clean blotting paper, or cotton batting, and gently sop up all the ink that has not soaked in. Then pour a little sweet milk on the spot, and soak it up with fresh blotting. It may need to be renewed several times, fresh milk and blotting being used each

time, and the spot will disappear. Then wash with clean soap-suds, and rub with a clean cloth. If the ink has been allowed to dry in, the milk must remain longer, and be renewed many times.

Cousin, who can tell me what will take blackberry stains out of aprons, napkins, etc.? M. A. J.

HAM OMELET.

Chop 1-2 lb. of ham fine, add 4 well-beaten eggs, a pinch of salt, fry brown in butter. R. M.

Many thanks to all who have sent recipes. COUSIN CERES, (Care of COMFORT.)

ONLY AN OLD HAIR TRUNK.

By T. E. WILLSON.

THE sun had gone down behind the hills, but the peaks of the western mountains were still bathed in sunlight and covered with that glory no painter's brush can reproduce. The shadows had fallen over the small but quaint and picturesque farm-house to its chimney-top and stretched across closely cropped green meadow-land and up the sloping hillside, its yellow stubble taking a golden tint that deepened at the edges of the irregular swaths, as if labor had set its signature upon the field.

The sunlight still danced in the topmost branches of the tall maple that stood on the crest when a wagon was driven slowly up the little lilac-lined lane that led to the barn. Before the wheels could have been heard by any but an anxious and waiting ear, a sweet-faced woman whose hair alone betrayed the fact that she was far beyond the middle age came to the door and was at the side of the wagon as the driver slowly descended.

"Don't grieve, father," she said, taking his hand. "The darkest cloud has a silver lining. We have Dick still."

"And that's all, mother," he replied, with a catch in his voice. The woman's sensitive face paled and seemed to grow older in a moment, for though her husband's manner had shown that his mission had failed, some hope had still remained despite her brave words, and while expecting the blow that would deprive them of the house and land upon which both had lived since childhood, there had been expectation that some way out of it might be found or that the blow might be in some way softened.

"Then Nichols won't not give you time?" "Not a day. He is merciless, and the sale will take place Saturday. He must have the cash, he says, on Saturday, and will only sell for money down. Williams is away in New York. I saw every one who might be able to let me have the money, but none could lend so much by Saturday. I will buy it myself. Barker says he can get the money for me in ten days, but when I asked Nichols to give me one more week, he replied that he had not forgotten his oath if I had."

"The villain!" said the woman indignantly. "But is it legal, father?" she asked. "Can he rob us of a farm worth six times the mortgage and have the law on his side?"

"I asked Squire Andrews, and he went over the papers carefully. He has planned his vengeance well," Andrews said. "Every legal form has been complied with, and he would be morally, but not legally, justified in shooting him."

"Poor Dick!" said the mother. "Come, father, the house is ours for three days longer anyway. Something may happen. Let us talk of other things. Supper is ready and Dick is coming across the field."

While talking the light wagon had been put in the carriage-house and the horse had been fed and watered.

It was easy to see that the bright-faced, broad-shouldered young man who met them at the door was their son and that he was a "mother's boy." His arm felt naturally around her waist, and he stopped to kiss her as they passed into the kitchen.

"Well, Mimi, are you ready to feed a bear after his Winter's sleep?" he asked playfully. "Why, mother, there are tears in your eyes! Father, what is the matter?" he asked for the first time he saw his drawn, set face.

His mother's arms were around his neck, and she was crying softly on his breast.

"It means, Dick, that Nichols bought the mortgage from Secor before he went to Mexico; it was due, as you know, for four years, but Nichols did not want the money and wished to let it run on, as I needed it more than he did. Secor knew that Nichols was my son-in-law, and from what Nichols said supposed he wanted to clear it off. Secor told Jim Ferguson that he was going to do it."

"Secor did not know how he treated Nellie?" asked Dick.

"No," was the weary reply. "Even you, Dick, don't know that when I brought Nellie home—a wreck, dying from his brutal treatment—that he swore an oath to have revenge on me and mine, because I would not let him take her back to the city to die. He hated her because she would not help him in his wickedness, and when he saw her days were numbered, told her that she would never see one of us while she lived and none of us would know where she was buried when she was dead. A friend of hers wrote to me. I went to New York and brought her home. When he came, in hot haste for her, I kicked him out. You were only a little lad of five then, Dick. He has waited all these years and now he has his revenge."

"But how, father? We can easily pay off the \$1,200 in a week or ten days."

"He has given me the legal thirty days' notice by publication in the Bloomfield register, which never comes to this post-office. Mrs. Winters saw it yesterday and sent me word. The sale is for Saturday. He requires spot cash. No one can get \$1,200 in so short a time, and he will buy it himself."

The young man's eyes blazed. "If he does—if he dares to show himself—I will put a bullet in him."

The mother's arms were around him. His father laid his hand upon his shoulder.

"Leave him to God, Dick; don't make our burden harder than we can bear. Let us have our boy for the young man's eye left to us."

"Remember, Susie," sobbed the mother. "The young man conquered his enemies, kissed his mother and shook his father's hand—the Anglo-Saxon caresses between males. Women kiss; men shake hands."

"I will do nothing rash; nothing to bring you additional worry; but if I meet him he will have to keep his temper. Come, let us try your biscuits, Mimi, and forget for the moment."

The form of a meal was gone through with, but the talk drifted into the only subject that any one could think about.

"Dick, you haven't said a word about your marriage. It is two weeks from to-day. We will have no home for Susie to come to."

Dick smiled for his mother's benefit and answered brightly: "Never mind that, Mimi. It will have to be postponed for a little while. Don't worry about that."

"But, Dick, it may make a great difference to Susie," said his father. "You will no longer have a snug farm at your back, and you may have to wait a year or two before you can get forehanded enough to marry. Will Susie be willing to wait and take the chances when she can have her cousin Will, who is rich?"

"Susie is as true as steel, dad. Will Hartshorn cannot take her from me," said Dick, laughing lightly. "We may not be able to marry for a year or two, but we are both young and life is before us. Don't fret on our account. I must go over and tell her."

It was not 10 when he returned, but it was the first time in many months that both his parents had been found up at that hour. Traces of tears on their cheeks showed that the subject of conversation had not been changed.

"Susie will wait," he replied to his mother's unspoken question, "until I have made a home for us three and it has grown big enough for her to enter. I say what she said. She won't marry me till I have. Our marriage is postponed for a year. She will work in the rubber factory and help me. Her uncle has been appointed manager, and was out to see her yesterday to see if he could get her as his chief clerk. He wants some one who understands bookkeeping, shorthand and telegraphy, and offered her \$12 per week. She refused, of course, but she has written to-night accepting it. You see, dad, she didn't waste her time as you thought, in learning those accomplishments last year. Her investment of \$130 will come back many fold."

His mother laid her hand upon his arm. "Susie says that we can get the Wilson's house at

the bridge. It's quite as comfortable as this, and we will soon forget all about this trouble. You are only fretting for us, and Susie says you must not and shall not. Susie's word is law to mother and me; and, father, will you not do what we three want you to?"

"Dick," said his father with deep feeling, "I should have named you Benjamin. Susie will make a good wife. I take back all I said about her spending money. She was wiser than I, but I didn't think it was woman's work."

"Even her spending \$4 for cancelled postage stamps?" asked Dick, mischievously. "Well," said his father, with a smile and a shake of the head, "that was a vanity. Twenty-five cents for a yard of ribbon I can understand, but 25 cents for an old one-cent postage stamp which I bought new only a few years ago for a cent I cannot understand. I think it would be more natural for a pretty girl to spend her money for ribbons than for little pieces of soiled paper."

"She says that her collection, which cost her less than \$20, can be sold any day to a dealer for \$35 and that he will sell it again for \$100. The stamps she paid 25 cents each for are now sold for \$1.25 and \$1.50. She intends to sell them all to have a nest-egg to start with."

"I don't want a better girl than Susie for a daughter. I always said that, Dick. That there stamp business was the only vanity I ever knew in her, but she has a right to some vanity. She has the Look-wood girl and truth. Let us ask God to bless her."

At noon the next day Mrs. Ferris asked Dick to give her an hour's help in the garret, as she wished to go over the accumulated rubbish of a century to see what would be worth moving.

"What is in this old hair trunk, mother?" asked Dick, as he sorted out the relics of five generations.

"That was your Aunt Selina's. It's full of letters and papers. All her husband's love-letters are there, for she saved every one that was ever writ to her. She saved all the letters that he ever received, and he did a big business till he failed. Selina was a little queer. He was a great school-teacher, was Jack. He went to college and was a professor when he married Selina. His letters read like a book, and Selina was very proud of them."

Dick opened the moth-eaten, cowhide-covered little trunk, in its time as much a source of pride as any genuine alligator skin one is now to its possessor. There on top, as if put in last, was a bundle of letters, tied with a faded ribbon. Dick took out one with some curiosity. It was written before envelopes were in common use, and the address was on the middle of the folded letter itself, the edges of which had been turned in one another and sealed.

"Mother, may I come up?" called a clear sweet voice from the stairway, but without giving time for a reply the speaker appeared and was clasped in Mrs. Ferris' arms. She seemed to bring the sunshine which that instant came pouring through the high side window, falling full upon the little trunk and covering it with a golden glory.

"O Susie, Susie!" was all Mrs. Ferris could say, and she held her tightly. For a moment Susie looked for both. She had come for that feminine drizzle of Lethe, known as "a good cry." Men drink rum; women cry; headache follows both. The rum is less wearing on the nerves, but you can't get women to believe it.

Tears and talk and laughter! Laughter and talk and tears! Hysteria looked in at the window.

Dick had patience. But patience has a limit. "Mother—Susie," said he reproachfully, "where and when do I enter into this little loving match? Have I no rights? Is not this mother mine, and the sweetheart, too? Ven kissing till I have mine."

Susie laid her hand on his, and lifted a bright and laughing face frankly to his. "This is an extra," she said gaily. "I didn't expect to see you, Dick. What is the love have in your hand?" She bent over to look at it with manifest curiosity. He handed it to her.

"It's only an old love letter from Uncle Jack to Aunt Selina." She was only looking at the superscription, her face paling and flushing.

Hysteria again glanced in at the window. "Do you know what's worth?" she asked with an effort. "Have you many of these, that you treat them so carelessly?"

"No," said Dick. "Is it a stamp not in your collection? It is only a very little one, only half the usual size, and I wish it were larger, but you are twice well come to it, and that ought to count."

As he did not answer he added, with a burlesque of generosity: "Keep it, Susie, even if it's one of those that are worth a whole dollar to collectors. I don't know where to sell it, even for a cent. Put it in your book."

His voice and manner at another time would have roused great mirth, but no answering smile appeared on Susie's face.

"It's one I never hoped to own," she replied gravely. "This little piece of paper is worth over \$400. It's a Brattleboro five-cent stamp on the original letter back. The only one that was supposed to be in the world was sold last month for \$575. Any dealer would give you \$250 at sight for this."

"Are you quite sure?" asked Mrs. Ferris, wondering.

"Yes; I know it. Where did it come from?"

Dick led her to the open trunk. With a gasp and sob she knelt down beside it and with flushing face and trembling hands began to sort out the letters into little heaps. Dick had not spoken, but watched her eagerly. The same thought, perhaps not perfectly formulated, had come to each.

Those most carefully examined were placed in her

lap, and by the time the last bundle had been hastily gone over not less than ninety were lying there. Then she bent over, put her face in her hands and began sobbing. Mrs. Ferris and Dick tried to comfort her. Dick's efforts were the more effectual. "Never mind, my sweetheart," he whispered, "think of it only as a dream. It won't pay the mortgage, but it will pay rent should we need it. Let us thank God for what He gives us."

By a strong effort of will she raised a tear-stained, radiant face, shining with delight.

"You don't understand. The mortgage is paid. The farm is saved. O, Dick! O, mother!"

When her emotions had subsided, and in reply to their eager questions, she took the selected letters and explained the treasure.

"Here are two used Brattleboros on letter-backs, worth almost any price, but a dealer will pay \$250 each. For these eight St. Louis stamps he will give, say, \$125. He will sell them for four times that. This set of three on one letter is alone worth more than \$125. Here are six New Haven, the first I ever saw. The genuine signed reprints sell for \$15 each. Put them at \$100. These two 30-cent stamps of 1893—notice that the shield is upside down—are worth \$50 and would bring \$100 at a sale. Here are thirteen red horsemen 1-cent stamps of 1861, worth \$10 each. Here are six 6-cent envelopes of 1867, worth \$300 if we could wait for buyers. See these four curious double stamps, one cent and three cents? Three are worth \$10 each, but the fourth is one I never heard of. The 1-cent head is upside down. It must be worth \$50. Here are over a dozen of the rare three-cent envelopes of 1863. Prof. Jennings paid \$42 for the one he has. These two War Department envelopes are worth \$50 each. These two Goliad and these five of Baton Rouge cannot be bought for \$400. Here's one envelope with twelve one-penny stamps on it. They have V. R. in the corners. Dealers charge \$40 each and pay \$20. Here are five rare Sandwich Island stamps any dealer will pay \$200 for." She gathered up the remaining letters. "For all these dealers charge \$20 or more each. No matter how you are cheated, you can get from \$1,000 to \$1,200, and what is lacking we can borrow."

"How can I get the money for them before Saturday?" asked Dick. "Whom shall I take them to?"

"You can take the 5 o'clock train to New York. I will give you the names and addresses of the three principal dealers. I have their catalogues. Come downstairs and we will divide them into three packets, so as to offer not more of one kind than we can help to a dealer. I will mark on each letter the price dealers charge for the stamp, so that they will not beat you down too much. These are all on the letters, so there can be no question of their genuineness. This is Wednesday. You can get back Friday night."

Her energy and faith brought hope and comfort.

Dick was back Friday night. He brought \$1,350 in greenbacks and a number of the stamps, which it was not necessary to sell. These were added, with many that remained in the trunk, to Susie's collection, which was not sold, for a "nest egg."

The marriage was not postponed. "Never destroy a postage stamp," said Grandfather Ferris last week to a young man who had torn an envelope in pieces to get out a letter. "If you take an old man's advice you will start a collection. If my daughter Susie hadn't started one four years ago we might now be in the town."

This was not fair to Dick, but old people are forgetful.

It is a well-known fact that in every house there are hundreds of old letters that have very valuable stamps on the envelopes. A gentleman well-versed in such matters has gotten out a stamp guide containing pages and pages of illustrations which will enable any one to get at the true value of old Coins, Stamps and the like and the Publishers of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine, have just made arrangements to handle a large number of the Guides which sell for 25c. each, but being desirous of receiving renewals from thousands of our old subscribers and wanting to do them a favor also, we will give one of these Guides away to all who enclose 2c. for postage when they send the 25c. for renewal or for a new yearly subscriber. When it is known that one man, a shoemaker, obtained Twenty Thousand dollars for his collection of old stamps and others have received as high as one Thousand dollars for one stamp that many apparently common ones bring \$50 and that old coins are just as valuable; it will show the importance of having a reliable guide in the house, and thus be able to pay off a mortgage or put money in the bank, from utilizing these apparently worthless things.

LADIES LACE PINS FREE.

We have some new style Gold-plate Bangle Pins coming in very unique patterns, comprising the Souvenir Spoon, Key and various new styles. We want every one to get our new Catalogue and Premium List of 600 new articles in Jewelry and Household goods, so if you address Morse & Co., Augusta, Maine, and enclose 4c. for mailing we will send one of these real gold-plated pins free postpaid.

THE TOBACCO HABIT.

Although a great many persons enjoy life and fat up when victims of the tobacco habit, there are millions who would give all the worlds good they have in stock if they could out rid themselves of this cursed of hacking, spitting and smoking. W. N. Tamer writes that he was for thirty years a slave to tobacco and it simply ruined his health. John Blinn a prominent business man in Fall River, Mass., said his heart got into the state that physicians called Tobacco Heart and the continual use of tobacco for many years so upset his general health also that he could not eat, sleep or work. Yet both of these and thousands of others found immediate relief and a permanent cure by simply taking one tablet of Oxien after each meal. As it will not cost our readers anything to try this wonderful, but harmless remedy we advise all to send at once to The Giant Oxien Co., Augusta, Maine, and get free samples which they now send to all troubled in this manner. We have positive proof of the great good it is doing.

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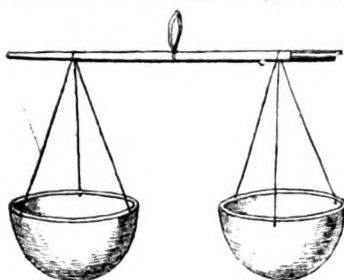
Copyright, 1892, by the Publishers of COMFORT.

COME children of the COMFORT Circle, let us see if we can't find some queer things to chat about. I will do all the talking and you the listening. If you don't understand me, speak out; that will prove that you want to know all I am saying and that your ears are open. We will keep this Fireside Circle all to ourselves. Let us get going then while the fire crackles and before bed-time.

Yours devotedly, UNCLE CHARLIE.



To make a start, where do you suppose I have been today? Well, as you can't guess I will tell you. Flora and Lottie wanted to go to their grandma's and I took them in yesterday morning. I called for them and instead of finding grandma tired, she looked merry and the children happy and quiet. How did



grandma amuse them? Funniest thing you ever heard! First she gave them each an orange. Then she told them to cut in halves. Now take the insides out carefully and eat them, leaving the peel. Now for some thread, two wooden pen-handles and six pins. All ready? Now we will make a scale, three pieces of thread equal in length tied to the orange and the ends together. Good. Put a pin on each end of the pen handle and one in the centre and hang the orange peels and threads on the ends. Let us use the orange seeds and pennies for weights, and while you keep store I will do something. Well done, dear old grandma, you are a genius. Try it children, tomorrow.

WICKED FLIES.

SOME amusing things come to my ears, children. Here is one from a serious child named Ruby. She was seated by the window watching very closely the flies as they came upon the glass, the window being closed on account of the rain. The child's mother, knowing how thoughtful she was, said nothing. After a half-hour's silence Ruby turned to her mother and said "I think flies are dangerous things. There is one at the bottom of the pane, he is drunk. He must have come from some beer saloon. He kept tumbling while other flies, as you see, are lively. Some are stupid but they don't act like that one. Why can't flies eat bad meat and other awful things, then come into our house and 'light' on our food, fall into our milk and make it bad and give us stomach aches and diphtheria? Guess you better put more screens on the window, mama." Ruby was more than right. Insects can carry disease and create epidemics.

MY KITES.

LET me tell you what happened to me when a boy. I made a kite about one foot long and ten inches wide. The frame was light, the covering red tissue paper and the bobbins folded strips of the daily papers. It went up handsomely. All the boys liked it and I sold it for three cents, a silver three-cent piece. With the money I made three other kites. These I sold and made nine more. I was busy, happy

and successful. Prosperity did not spoil me nor did I stop to count my profits, but when the nine were sold I plunged into the business wholesale and made twenty kites. This lot I made of paper of various colors and in my haste to get dry on the edges where the paste was, I laid them on top of the hen-house where the sun shone hot. While these were drying I went into the woodshed and worked on my bobbins. I laughed, whistled and felt joyous, and the folks thought me quite a merchant. All the time the hens were cackling and making no end of noise, even the roosters I thought, were crowing over my lovely kites. The bobbins made, I was ready for the loops and went out to get my kites. Horrors! Will you believe me children! The hens had flown up and through the laths had picked the pretty colored paper all to pieces leaving only the cords and sticks, grim skeletons of my hard work. I stared in the face. It was my first disappointment. Cry? Of course I cried, but I had not invested all my money in this batch, and before night I had ten kites all built and three were sold before bedtime. That was 37 years ago and yet I can hear those confounded hens and roosters cackling now.

JOHN'S COMPOSITION.

SAY father, I've got to speak an original composition and I have made this one. Will you hear it?"

"Yes, John, go ahead."

"Well, the subject is 'Two Shoes.' Last night when I took off my shoes both of them grumbled at the way I threw them into a corner. In one voice they exclaimed, 'After we have carried you 'round all day you ought to let us down easy. We are tired all out. You don't care a rush for us.' I smiled and stood them up side by side near the open window so they might breathe freely while I slept. About midnight I was awakened by hearing two voices in my room and discovered that they came from my shoes. The right said to the left, 'Don't bother me. If you do I'll hit you. I'm stronger than you and bigger. You never will be as important as I, so don't crowd or be ambitious, but go to sleep.' The left shoe replied, 'You're my big brother, ain't you? I felt cold and was snuggling up to you a little. You ought to be kind, since I, though smaller than you, have to bear the same burden all day, the same weight that you do. I am prettier than you—my toe is not worn out and my heel is square. Come, be good wont you?' For a moment the right made no reply; finally it spoke up and said, 'All right, beauty, we'll trudge through life together and take things as they come. You do the pretty and I'll fight the battles and do all the kicking.' I laughed so loud at this dialogue that the shoes gave a quiet squeak and I heard no more from them. In the morning, when I put the shoes on I found the strings all tangled up and I concluded that this was the way they paid me up for laughing at them in the night."

"Will that do, father?"

"Yes, John, the idea is a good one; we should always be kind to the weak ones; the left shoe is as important as the right in this world of struggles."

THE PHILOSOPHER.

CHILDREN, did you hear that terrific snap from the burning log? Well, what do you suppose made it make such a bluster? I think it was a remnant of cold wind, that several winters ago had been sneaking about and just before the sun went down gave the tree a smart rap as a good-night joke. It took the tree by surprise and before it had recovered, the blast was deep into its heart and the noise we heard was the thawing out of the frozen smile of the winter night. Ah! I see some of your eyes blinking like the embers on the hearth and for a last "snap" I will give you a peaceful sort of story.

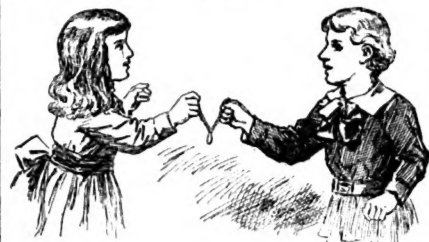
A MILLION years ago there was a king and he was very fond of flowers. One summer he had gathered to him all the flowers in the kingdom. This made the foliage so mad that it all turned green with jealousy and this is the cause for the color of the leaves and grass today. The king tried in every way to restore the green to blue like the sky, its original color, but he could not accomplish his task. So he called in his minister of science and asked him to explain the reason of the mishap and why the color could not be restored. The minister looked wise, then smiled and said "Do as I do." The minister opened his mouth wide, held his hand near it and breathed out slowly upon the palm. The king did the same thing. 'How

does it feel?' said the minister. The king replied 'Hot.' 'Good,' said the minister, 'now pucker your mouth as if you were going to whistle and blow fast onto your palm.' He did so and exclaimed 'It is cold.' 'Yes,' said the minister, 'from the same hot mouth comes the cold wind; so it is that Nature has its laws and if you breathe heat you will get heat, if you blow cold you will get cold. The foliage received the cold blast of neglect, the flowers the warmth of your heart, consequently the foliage faded and can never again be restored.'

The king wept."



HERE is another story—What! Emma and Tommy gaping? Well, I'll excuse you, for I know it is not polite to take a nap in company—so run along to bed and when you're snugly hugging the pillow, think of the poor sailors who will not sit around the fire-side on Thanksgiving Day, who will not pass up their plate for roast turkey and plum pudding, nor gratify their tastes with grandma's squash, pumpkin, apple and cranberry pie;



The one that gets the wish-bone is sure to have a splendid present from Santa Claus next month. Good night my Comforts, I'll think up my chat for Christmas.

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